FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 OCTOBER 1984

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi Warning, Contacts — At a Baghdad press conference reported by Paris Radio Monte Carlo, the Iraqi information and culture minister warned Iran that Iraq will destroy 70 selected Iranian economic targets if the Iranians launch a new "aggression" against Iraq. Meanwhile, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak telephoned President Saddam Husayn to inquire about the situation at the front and congratulate the Iraqi leader on the latest Iraqi "victory," according to Baghdad radio.

Meymak Fighting — IRNA reported a lull in the fighting but updated its estimate of Iraqi losses to 3,800 casualties and 30 tanks. However, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio said the Iraqi Army and Air Force dealt further blows to the Iranians, killing another 400 men and destroying 9 tanks and over 450 other vehicles. Total Iranian losses in Meymak have reached 2,499, the communique added.

Iran-Turkey

Turkish Interior Minister Ali Tanriyar said on his departure from Iran, after meeting with the president, prime minister, and interior minister, that he was "very satisfied" with his visit, according to IRNA. In their talks, President 'Ali Khamene'i warned Tanriyar that the Iraqi Muslims would regard any help given to the Iraqi regime as "against their interests," IRNA noted. Meanwhile, Ankara's *ANATOLIA* disclosed that the Turkish Government is arming villagers living on the Iraqi border to fight the "separatist terrorists" and cited reports that Kurdish militants are moving toward Syria.

Libya

JANA claimed that a Libyan airliner landing at Athens International Airport was almost hit by "a rocket coming from the direction of a U.S. military air base." However, Greek officials said no such incident occurred and they denied JANA's assertion that the Libyan plane captain reported such an incident to the airport control tower, according to Nicosia radio.

Lebanon

Al-Jumayyil Libya Visit — President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Libya where he was received by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, JANA reported. Lebanese sources cited by AFP said their talks would cover Middle East developments and the reactivation of Arab financial aid to Lebanon.

Economic Measures — The Cabinet has agreed on a number of measures to restore economic stability, including a decision to instruct the security authorities to bring the fifth dock of Beirut Port under government control, Prime Minister Rashid Karami disclosed in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio after a Cabinet meeting in B'abda.

Palestinian Clashes — Lebanese Army units surrounded the Burj al-Barajinah area of southern Beirut to contain a clash between supporters and opponents of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, according to security sources cited by Beirut radio.

PLO

At a meeting in Baghdad with Yasir 'Arafat, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn affirmed both his backing for the PLO's "legitimate leadership" and Iraq's readiness to give "all forms of moral and material support" to the PLO, Baghdad Voice of PLO reported. Later, 'Arafat asserted to a group of Palestinians in Baghdad that the PNC will meet by the end of November, the radio noted. In an interview cited by the radio, 'Arafat admitted that both Arab and non-Arab efforts to rectify Syrian-Palestinian relations before the PNC meets have "reached a dead end."

Israel

After hearing proposals of the Bank of Israel and the Treasury on how to remedy the country's economic crisis, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has decided to negotiate a 'package deal' with the national labor union to begin November 1, Jerusalem radio reported. The plan would freeze wages and prices and reject 'dollarization' of the Israeli economy, the radio added.

Jordan

The experience of buying arms in Moscow was "successful" and the USSR has offered Jordan new weapons, Information Minister Layla Sharaf said in a press interview reported by WAKH.

Pakistan

Pakistani civilians were evacuated from the Punch District border with India as Indian and Pakistani troops continued a "heavy exchange of fire" which began on 18 October, Dhaka radio reported. However, reacting to "certain baseless, sensational reports carried by the Indian media," a press release from the Pakistani Embassy in New Delhi cited by Karachi radio reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the "promotion of peace and friendship" with India and its readiness for talks on "any aspect" of their relations.

In a separate development, security forces in Sind Province were placed on alert as hundreds of students demonstrated against the alleged killing of "at least five" of their colleagues by police on 17 October, according to AFP. While Pakistani media have not been observed to report on the demonstrations or the alert, Karachi radio did announce that all schools and colleges in Hyderabad Division will "remain closed" until 26 October and that scheduled university examinations have been postponed.

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Middle East & Africa

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'Arafat Holds Press Conference in Doha

GF202040 Doha QNA in Arabic 1835 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Doha, 20 Oct (QNA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said his talks with Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, deputy amir and Qatari heir apparent, dealt with a number of important issues, foremost of which were the results of the expanded Palestinian meeting held in Tunis recently and the Palestinian dialogue to convene the PNC as soon as possible.

In a press conference held prior to his departure from Doha today, Mr Yasir 'Arafat said that he informed the deputy Qatari amir that there is unanimous agreement by the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories to convene the PNC and avoid any further postponement. He pointed out that he appreciated his highness's full support for the PLO. 'Arafat also indicated that his talks with Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani dealt with the steps that the PLO must undertake in order to bolster the struggle march of the Palestinian people in addition to a number of Arab issues, particularly the Iraqi-Iranian war.

'Arafat said that the military committee of from the Islamic Good Offices Committee for mediating between Baghdad and Tehran was supposed to hold a meeting last week, but it was postponed at the request of some members. He added that the talks dealt also with the necessity of bolstering Arab solidarity in order to face these events. He said that the talks also focused on Qatari-Palestinian relations.

Asked a question on convening the PNC, 'Arafat explained that it would have been possible to convene the PNC on time last February, but it was decided to hold a dialogue among the various Palestinian forces prior to convening it. He said we did actually approve the Aden-Algiers agreement which specified a meeting time for the PNC, supposedly to be held last month in Algiers, but the hesitation and indecision of some parties that signed the agreement, particularly the PFLP, resulted in the failure to convene the PNC at the specified time.

'Arafat announced that the Palestinian leadership will not flatter anyone at the expense of the issue. He said that it is on this basis and on the basis of the recommendations submitted by the expanded meeting of the Palestinian popular organizations and activities — which constitute more than half of the membership of the PNC — which was held in Tunis recently, that it is incumbent on us to invite the PNC to convene next month at the latest. He affirmed that the interest of the Palestinian people accepts no flattery from now on in view of recent events and developments in the region.

Answering a question on Palestinian mediation to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war and whether there was a new round of mediation, 'Arafat said he has been in contact with Habib al-Chatti [ICO secretary general] who returned to Jeddah today, and that he has also been in contact with the chairman of the Islamic Good Offices Committee in a bid for a quick move.

Asked about Egyptian-Palestinian relations, and whether any consultations are going on between the two sides, 'Arafat said that Egyptian-Palestinian relations are good and we proudly record what was mentioned in the speech of Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid at the United Nations on this issue who noted in this regard the national rights of the Palestinian people. He added that the issue of support for the PLO was brought up during the discussion which took place between Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid at the United Nations. He added that the recent statements by the Egyptian officials and particularly by President Husni Mubarak and his adviser for political affairs, Dr 'Usamah al-Baz, made the Israelis lodge a protest that such statements violated the Camp David agreements.

In his press conference the Palestinian leader affirmed that Palestinian-Jordanian relations are based on mutual confidence and understanding in light of the resolutions of the PNC which was held in Algiers. He said that these resolutions provide for the establishment of distinguished Palestinian-Jordanian relations calling for a confederation between the two sides. He said that the details of this unity were discussed and that a written report was presented to the Jordanian side. He said: This was the point of discussion between me and Jordanian officials during my last visit to Jordan. The Jordanian side plans to inform us of its opinion in this regard.

Answering a question on the forthcoming Arab summit, 'Arafat said: The PLO called for an Arab summit conference to discuss our problems openly and clearly in order to bolster our ranks in face of the world challenges which not only are directed against the Palestinians and Lebanese alone, but also against the entire Arab nation. He expressed hope that this summit will be held according to schedule, especially since the current situation and developments necessitate the convening of this summit.

Regarding the proposed international conference on the Middle East, 'Arafat reiterated his support for the initiative of the UN secretary general on the convening of this conference under the auspicies of the United Nations. He said that he also welcomed the new Soviet initiative calling for an international conference attended by all the concerned parties, including the PLO. He said that this was one of the basic points discussed with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in Berlin recently. He said the PRC also supports the convening of an international conference under the supervision of the United Nations to settle the Middle East issue. He added that all the concerned Arab parties also welcomed the conference.

Answering a question on his view on the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Jordan, 'Arafat said that this matter concerns internal Jordanian sovereignty. He said he supports any step of rapprochement among the Arab countries. He also pointed out that the PNC resolutions have stressed the importance of Egypt's role and its return to the Arab ranks. He said: We take into account the steps taken by Egypt under the leadership of Husni Mubarak as separate from Camp David policy.

Regarding reports on an expected Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, 'Arafat said that U.S. Envoy Richard Murphy reached an agreement during his recent tours, on the basis of which a tactical Israeli withdrawal from some Lebanese positions, especially from Sidon, will take place. He said that Israel stipulated that two

articles regarding the PLO and the patriotic Palestinian action be included in the agreement. The first article provides for preventing the return of the PLO fighters to southern Lebanon and the second article provides for ensuring the safety of the northern borders of our occupied homeland. He said that Lebanese-Israeli military meetings will be held to finalize this political agreement. In his press conference 'Arafat said that his current tour will include the majority of the Arab countries.

Regarding the problem of Palestinian passports, 'Arafat said that a resolution by the Arab League was unanimously approved by the Arab countries on the idea of issuing such passports. A committee was formed by the Arab League and the PLO to study this question effectively and thoroughly for the proper and correct use of such passports.

Answering a question on Palestinian-Iranian relations, the Palestinian leader said: Our relations with the Iranian leadership continue to by good. There is a regular exchange of delegations and messages between us.

'Arafat Addresses Palestinians in Baghdad

JN221711 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has addressed a group of Palestinians at the PLO office in Baghdad. He spoke about the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and reviewed the subject of the convocation of the PNC. He affirmed that the Palestinian leadership, in accordance with the directive of the expanded meeting of Palestinian functionaries, figures, and popular organizations, has decided to hold the PNC session by the end of next month. Brother Abu 'Ammar emphasized that the decision to hold the PNC session comes from the Palestinian people and their national will. He said: We will not permit any Arab regime to undermine our will. Henceforth, we will not appease anyone at the expense of the Palestinian national cause.

The leader of the Palestinian revolution, Brother Abu 'Ammar, affirmed that the Palestinian revolution will continue and that the plots hatched by U.S. circles and the Zionist enemy as well as the Arab regimes colluding with them will not stop our people's march and liberation revolution. It is a revolution unto victory.

PLO Radio on 'Arafat's MONDAY MORNING Interview

JN221814 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1644 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has described the present Israeli Government as the most dangerous government, and said that it will retain a border strip in Lebanon.

In an interview with the English-language weekly *MONDAY MORNING* published yesterday, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that the proposal made by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the United States about withdrawal from southern Lebanon was a mere tactic. He said that a withdrawal will take place from Sidon, on the southern coast, but it will be a tactical one. Brother Abu 'Ammar added that the Israelis will not withdraw from the Lebanese border strip adjacent to the northern border of Palestine. This border strip will be 16-18 km inside Lebanese territory. He said that this border strip will include the Al-Litani River from which the Israelis will draw water and generate power. Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed that the present Israeli Government will not withdraw from this strip.

Asked if he expects a broader U.S. role in Lebanon after the U.S. elections next month, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: After the U.S. elections, the region will witness an increase in tension unless an international agreement is reached. He added that he does not believe the U.S. election results will bring anything new concerning the Middle East question and the Lebanese issue, whether President Reagan or his contender wins. He added: U.S. policy is stupid and involved with the Zionist octopus. It not only harms its own interests, but like a bear, it also kills its friend. Brother Abu 'Ammar added: The U.S. President and his contender are two ugly faces of the same American coin.

Brother Abu 'Ammar then spoke about the PLO's relationship with the USSR. He said that it is the relationship of a friend. He said that he learned from Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko when he met with him recently that the international conference on solving the Middle East crisis was one of the key points that the Soviet minister raised with the Israeli foreign minister when he met with him during the current UN General Assembly session in New York. He added that Israel and the United States categorically reject this idea.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added that he has also learned that during this meeting, the Israeli foreign minister called on Gromyko to discuss the restoration of Israeli-Soviet relations which have been severed since the 1967 aggression. However, Gromyko told the Israeli minister that Moscow cannot resume relations so long as the Arab territory is still occupied.

Brother Abu 'Ammar reiterated his rejection of President Reagan's initiative to solve the Middle East crisis. He said that this plan totally ignores the concerns of the Palestinian people. Brother Abu 'Ammar considered Saudi King Fahd's initiative on the Middle East crisis, which was approved by the Arab summit in Fes, as a suitable framework for a solution. He said that there must be a mechanism to implement this initiative, especially since both the United States and Israel reject this initiative.

Brother Abu 'Ammar spoke about the PLO's tense relationship with Syria. He said that Arab and non-Arab mediators have tried to rectify Syrian-Palestinian relations before the convocation of the PNC. However, these efforts have not achieved any positive results so far; the efforts have reached a deadend. Asked as to who disrupted this relationship, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: The war, the 1982 war; in other words, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Libya has greatly contributed toward increasing tension in this relationship.

Asked about his position on Egypt, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: I believe that our struggle must concentrate on winning over Egypt by keeping it away from the Camp David policy. Undoubtedly,

Mubarak's Egypt is not Al-Sadat's Egypt. Brother Abu 'Ammar added: I consider the recent policy pursued by President Mubarak, including his stands in the United Nations, his protection of the Palestinian forces that left Tripoli, northern Lebanon, and his refusal to normalize relations with Israel are steps on the path of leading Egypt away from a Camp David policy. Brother Abu 'Ammar added: These steps are slow because the situation inherited by President Mubarak is burdensome. He said: In order to correct the fault, we must return Egypt to the Arab fold by leading it away from the Camp David accords and we must also end the Iraq-Iran war. Without that, there will be no real confrontation with the Israeli enemy. Replying to a question on Egypt, he said: Nobody can eliminate Egypt.

Iraq's 'Aziz Offers To Host PNC Meeting

JN221255 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The PLO representative in Baghdad, 'Azzam al-Ahmad has declared that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has renewed his country's willingness to host the PNC meeting. In his meeting with 'Arafat yesterday, 'Aziz affirmed Iraq's absolute support for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

'Azzam al-Ahmad said 'Arafat will meet with President Saddam Husayn today to discuss the Islamic Mediation Committee's efforts to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. 'Arafat is a member of this committee and it appears that the he has brought a draft settlement with him stipulating a cease-fire and the deployment of an Islamic forces between the two warring armies.

Fatah's Khalid al-Hasan, Mahmud 'Abbas in Amman

JN221835 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Fatah Central Committee members Brothers Abu al-Sa'id [Khalid al-Hasan] and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] arrived in Amman today on a short visit to Jordan to discuss with Jordanian officials the latest developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas.

PFLP-DFLP Group Clashes With Israeli Patrol

JN221240 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] says that a joint DFLP-PFLP group clashed with an Israeli mobile patrol on the dirt road at the peak of Al-Baruk mountain, northeast of Bakir yesterday morning. A number of enemy personnel were killed or wounded in the 30-minute clash, in which machine guns and rockets were used.

PLO Radio on Sea Operations off Haifa, Beirut

JN221818 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] In a new heroic sea operation and in implementation of the revolution leadership's decisions and directives to escalate armed struggle against the Zionist enemy, a group of Palestinian fighters, who are members of the naval forces, clashed with a Zionist naval patrol off the coast of Haifa in the occupied homeland. A Palestinian spokesman said the clash which took place last Saturday resulted in the complete destruction of an enemy gunboat and damage to another. A number of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.

The spokesman announced the martyrdom of three of our heroic fighters in this daring sea operation. It is the second of its kind in 2 days. Another group of our heroic fighters clashed with a Zionist naval patrol off Beirut. The clash resulted in the martyrdom of two of our revolution's brave heroes and the killing or wounding of several Zionist enemy seamen.

Resistance Operations in South Lebanon Reported

JN221833 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Palestinian and nationalist Lebanese resistance men yesterday attacked a Zionist military patrol when it passed near Sidon in occupied southern Lebanon. As a result of this attack, which was carried out with machine guns and rockets, a Zionist vehicle was completely destroyed and all its occupants were killed or wounded.

A Zionist spokesman admitted the incident, but, as usual, did not disclose his losses. He said that his forces and elements of the agent militias rushed to the scene, surrounded the area, blocked the road between the Shamut bridge and Al-Rahibat road interesection, and carried out a large-scale search campaign. The enemy forces detained a large number of Palestinians and Lebanese claiming that they were involved with the resistance men, who, in fact, returned safely to their bases.

KUNA: Nigeria Will Maintain Lower Oil Price
LD221222 Kuwait KUNA in English 1057 GMT 22 Oct 84

[By Shamel Khayri]

[Text] Kuwait, oct 22 (KUNA) — Nigeria will not budge from its decision to cut prices of its crude by two dollars a barrel unless the organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to raise that country's oil production quota, oil sources stated Monday.

The sources, closely informed on the Nigerian stand, told KUNA Monday that Lagos intends to bargain with OPEC oil ministers, during their upcoming emergency consultative conference in Geneva next Monday, for increasing Nigeria's daily quota [word indistinct] million barrels in return for reinstatement of the original benchmark price of 30 dollars per barrel.

Nigeria Supports Geneva Meeting
LD221534 Vienna OPECNA in English 1251 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Vienna, 22 Oct. 84 (OPECNA) — Nigeria fully supports the preparatory talks starting today in Geneva between OPEC and non-OPEC countries, Prof. Tam David-West, minister of petroleum and energy, told OPECNA in a telephone interview this morning. He said he was taken into confidence about the talks and expressed the belief that "cross-fertilization about firming the market" was appropriate and necessary.

He stated that OPEC and non-OPEC countries were like passengers in the same boat, adding that if the boat were to capsize, sharks might no differentiate between the sinking passengers.

David-West emphasized that Nigeria had not "broken rank" with OPEC, but only made a "tactical move."

"Nigeria has solid faith in OPEC and there is no war within the organization," he declared.

The minister said he would attend the consultative meeting of OPEC oil ministers starting in Geneva next Monday.

The meeting would carry out frank exchanges in an atmosphere of deep reflection, David-West stated.

In an interview carried by the Nigerian *SUNDAY TIMES*, the minister said the Nigerian decision to reduce the price of its crude was not a "panic measure". He described Nigeria as a responsible member of OPEC which had "never exceeded its quota, nor engaged in any barter deal or price discounting."

Reportage on Geneva OPEC Meeting on Price Changes
NC221851 Paris AFP in English 1843 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Geneva, Oct 22 (AFP) — Oil ministers from five members of the Organization of Petrolem Exporting Countries (OPEC) today agreed in principle to reduce output rather than prices to cope with price cuts announced last week by Norway, Britain and Nigeria, outgoing Libyan Oil Minister and OPEC President Kamal Hassan Al-Maqhur said here today.

Noting that the 13 nations belonging to OPEC had dropped its price by five dollars a barrel in March 1983, Mr. Al-Maqhur said a similar move would not be taken this year.

Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani likewise asserted here that there would be no price cut by OPEC countries in response to decisions last week by Norway and Britain to reduce the price of their North Sea oil.

Nigeria broke ranks with fellow OPEC members following the decisions by non-members Norway and Britain and lowered the price of its light crude from 30 to 28 dollars a barrel.

OPEC ministers from Saudi Arabia, Libya, Kuwait, Algeria and Venezuela, as well as those from Egypt and Mexico, both of which are outside the organization, met informally here today prior to a full OPEC session scheduled to begin October 29.

Observers here noted that OPEC, assisted by several non-member producers, must still reach agreement on details of a production cut while trying to convince Nigeria to cancel a decision lowering its official price by two dollars a barrel. In addition, the organization is seen as having now to demonstrate to oil buyers that it does after all have the capacity to stabilize the international market.

Production Levels Discussed
LD222206 Kuwait KUNA in English 1712 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Geneva, Oct 22 (KUNA) — Leading oil ministers in OPEC appeared to have made progress on their first day of talks with non-OPEC producers Mexico and Egypt towards an agreement to cut production and stop the downward spiral of oil prices.

Five OPEC ministers — from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Venezuela, Algeria and Libya — took part in the opening round of the unprecedented negotiations here Monday. They were later joined by UAE Oil Minister Mani Sa'id al-Utaybah, chairman of OPEC's Market Monitoring Committee.

They were seeking an accord which would tackle production levels in the present glutted oil market while leaving the OPEC pricing structure unchanged, sources noted.

Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, heading the talks, said Monday there would be no price change, repeating the commitment made by several OPEC countries to keep the 29 dollar reference price despite last week's cuts by Norway and Britain for North Sea oil and the two-dollar reduction by Nigeria.

Kuwaiti oil minister, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah, told newsmen OPEC plans would be made public on Tuesday, giving rise to optimism that the meeting had gone well. "Tomorrow morning we will tell you everything," he said. Earlier he indicated that he believed the agreement would work.

The talks have resulted in a consensus between the OPEC members and Mexico and Egypt to reduce production, according to Libya's Kamil Hasan Maqhur, oil minister until very recently. The reduction would include the two non-OPEC producers, he made clear.

"I think the general tendency is that we will lower our production to defend the price," said Maqhur, taking part in the meeting as a consultant.

"Things are under control. We are facing the responsibility of the situation, not only the responsibility of the oil producers but of the whole international economy," he said. The meeting had reached "certain conclusions which are not bad for the world."

A question mark hung over how OPEC might deal with Nigeria's unilateral price cut from 30 to 28 dollars a barrel, a dollar below the official marker and a deeper cut than the reductions made by Norway and Britain.

While an arrangement might be found to bring Nigeria, a major OPEC exporter, to cancel its decision, Gulf oil sources said Nigeria would insist on a production quota higher than its official level of 1.3 million barrels a day.

Such a move would clearly make it more difficult for OPEC to implement an overall drop in its production.

Another possibility would be to make Nigeria a special case, because of its large debts and its competition with North Sea oil, and set up a two-tier pricing system.

OPEC also urgently needs to impose rigorous discipline among its 13 members, to ensure that quotas are respected and discounting brought to an end under any new production ceiling, sources said.

The North Sea oil price cuts by Norway and Britain, which have triggered the latest crisis, were described as "a stupid move" by the former Libyan minister Monday.

He also said that OPEC, trying to stabilise the world economy, would definitely hold the 29 dollar benchmark. "We have suffered with the five-dollar cut and we are not going to suffer any more," he said.

Production Cut

LD231305 Kuwait KUNA in English 1218 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Geneva, Oct 23 (KUNA) — The six OPEC oil ministers who met here Monday and Tuesday are proposing that all OPEC members will cut their production, the Saudi oil minister said.

"Everybody will do that," Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said when asked about the proposed plan to reduce production. Saudi Arabia would make a "Substantial" cut, he confirmed, but gave no details.

OPEC's cutback would be "just enough to bring the price up to the official OPEC price" he told newsmen. "We decided to defend the price of oil by cutting production."

Shaykh Yamani also confirmed he intended to go to Lagos for talks with the Nigerians on their two-dollar reduction, preferably before the emergency conference of OPEC starting here next Monday.

Mexico's Energy Secretary Francisco Lambastida Ochoa said he planned to accompany Shaykh Yamani, but did not know if the delegation would include other ministers.

"The purpose is to talk with the Nigerian authorities on the best strategy to defend the oil market and what they could do," the Mexican said.

Yamani stated that he expected Nigeria "ultimately" to return to its official OPEC price, which is 30 dollars a barrel.

Saudis To Cut 'Substantially'

NC231154 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Geneva, Oct 23 (AFP) — Saudi Arabia will cut its oil production "substantially" Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said here today. But he refused to specify by how much or when the cuts would take effect.

Shaykh Yamani is in Geneva attending a meeting of oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) called to discuss world oil production and prices following recent oil price cuts by Nigeria, Britain and Norway.

Shaykh Yamani said the participants at the meeting here had agreed to try to keep their benchmark prices by the cut in production. "We agreed on no price cuts," he said.

Shaykh Yamani also said he hoped to go to Nigeria to discuss that country's cut in prices, "preferably before" the next OPEC conference here on Monday.

Nigeria is the only OPEC country to have officially announced a cut in its oil prices, although occasional reductions are often given surreptitiously by other OPEC members. Nigeria was not represented at these talks, and there was some doubt as to how it would greet an OPEC delegation. OPEC members have privately accused the Nigerians of breaking OPEC solidarity.

The oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, Mani Sa'id al-'Utaybah, promised that the Emirates would abide by any OPEC decision.

Geneva Meeting Ends

LD231149 Kuwait KUNA in English 1101 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Geneva, Oct. 23 (KUNA) — OPEC oil ministers ended their meeting Tuesday with two non-OPEC oil producers, and Kuwait's oil minister said OPEC had agreed on a range for cutting OPEC's overall production.

The general agreement is to be presented to the emergency conference starting next Monday in Geneva, and Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah said, he did not expect any problems.

"Everybody is coming with a determination to defend the price" of 29 dollars a barrel, he said.

Shaykh Ali said the OPEC conference on October 29 would discuss differentials, but he saw no problem in dealing with the issue. Egypt and Mexico, the two non-OPEC countries which took part in the Geneva talks just ended, had shown "a spirit of cooperation" to defend oil prices, he said.

OPEC Control of Oil Price 'Remains Strong'

LD222327 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The oil ministers of 6 OPEC states in Vienna today discussed the question of bolstering oil prices, after some oil producing states reduced the price of their oil.

Despite the reactions in the international oil market caused by Norway and Britain, and later Nigeria, lowering the price of their oil, OPEC's control over the price trends still remains strong. This is because Norwegian and British oil does not exceed 10-15 percent in the international market.

In order to strengthen the OPEC position his excellency the minister of oil and mineral resources said that the organization might cooperate with producers outside the organization in order to protect prices. Thus, it appears that OPEC is capable of confronting the challenges of the price war which some want to force on the organization.

Leaving to one side the impact of the Norwegian/British price reduction on the price structure — which will be very limited — Nigeria, an OPEC member, decided to lower its oil prices suddenly reducing the price of a barrel of its oil by 1.35 percent — $1.6.

OPEC ministers agreed at their regular semi-annual meeting which was held in Vienna in July, to increase Nigeria's share of production by 100,000 barrels per day [BPD] in August and 150,000 BPD in September. It appears, however, that this did not satisfy the Nigerians who have been demanding an increase of 200,000 BPD on the grounds that their economic and financial position requires this increase.

Observers say that those who bank on splitting OPEC ranks might seize their chance today to apply pressure in order to bring into doubt OPEC's ability to control its oil prices. However all signs point to the strong cohesion of OPEC ranks and the readiness of some producers outside the organization to cooperate in this field; something that will most certainly foil any conspiracy aimed at harming the oil producing countries — harm that will have a serious impact on a world economy facing many problems.

GULF AFFAIRS

'Gulf Source' on Establishment of Joint Naval Base

GF211442 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 20 Oct 84 pp 1, 20

[Excerpt] Riyadh — A well-informed Gulf source has said that the defense paper approved by the joint meeting of the GCC foreign and defense ministers included among its urgent defensive plans the establishment of a joint GCC naval command whose base will be at Al-Jubayl [in Saudi Arabia]. The naval base will have a joint operations room tied to the operations rooms of GCC states by a modern electronic communications system and supplied with technically sophisticated warning systems.

The source said that this command will maintain contact with the air forces of the GCC states for the purpose of protecting ships and tankers belonging to the GCC states against possible attacks in the Gulf region. The source added that this command will have modern warships to patrol the territorial waters of the GCC states. He said that special shipping lanes will be determined for protecting Gulf ships and that any plane violating the airspace above these territorial waters will be fired on.

Kuwait, UAE Hold Joint Aerial Exercises

LD211432 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1308 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Oct (KUNA) — Joint aerial exercises between the UAE Air Force and Kuwaiti air and defense forces this morning were concluded here by a joint aerial maneuver among the fighter aircraft squadrons. The maneuver included a mock attack on specific targets by Skyhawk and Mirage F-3 aircraft while Mirage F-1 interceptor aircraft in coordination with the air defense carried out defensive operations against the attack on vital targets.

Commander of the Ahmad al-Jabir Air Base Staff Lieutenant Colonel Sabti Bughayth and Operations Commander Staff Lieutenant Colonel Yusuf al-Sanuwiyan followed the operation from the control tower of the base.

The final maneuver concluded the joint aerial exercise to strengthen the power and fighting effectiveness of the aerial defense forces and a serious test for the cooperation of these forces in the GCC countries. The UAE force is expected to leave tomorrow upon completion of the maneuvers.

Saudi Inspector General Receives GCC Chiefs of Staff

LD222155 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, this evening met with the GCC chiefs of staff and with GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah. The meeting was attended by Chief of General Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad.

The GCC chiefs of staff arrived at the King Khalid Military Airport this evening, accompanied by the GCC secretary general. They were welcomed at the airport by Staff Major General Yusuf 'Abd al-Rahman al-Rashid, commander of land forces and the chairman of the general supervision committee on the Peninsula Shield II maneuvers; Commander of the Air Force Air Staff Lieutenant General 'Abdallah al-Hamdan; Commander of Naval Forces Staff Brigadier Talal Mufaddi; and Assistant Commander of Air Defense Forces Staff Brigadier Khalid ibn Sultan.

BAHRAIN

Danish Prime Minister Arrives for 2-Day Visit

GF200840 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH) — Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter and his wife arrived in Manama from Abu Dhabi today on a 2-day official visit to Bahrain on his tour of a number of the region's countries. The visit comes at the invitation of Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, who welcomed him upon his arrival. During his visit Mr Schluter will hold talks on the current situation in the Gulf and the economic and trade relations between the two countries. Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah is expected to receive Schluter later today.

KUWAIT

AL-SIYASAH on Escalation of Iraq-Iran War

GF211406 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 21 Oct (WAKH) — A Kuwaiti newspaper today comments on the escalation at the Iraqi-Iranian front, the most recent being the failure of a number of Iranian attacks launched against Iraq.

The newspaper *AL-SIYASAH* said that the motive behind the unsuccessful Iranian attacks was an attempt to relax the psychological atmosphere in which Iran has lived during the past 8 months. Internal and external criticism has forced it to launch these attacks because the Iranian leadership has been under sharp criticism. The paper stated that Iran is well aware that all indications affirm that Iraq is in a strong defensive position and that it will be difficult for Iran to achieve its goal due to a lack of balance in these goals internationally and regionally.

In conclusion, the paper stressed that the Arabian Peninsula countries regard Iraq as an important state. Its outstanding defenses are a protection for the whole region, and thus there is no lack of balance on its part.

Measures To Protect Officials Abroad Announced

GF201125 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Oct (WAKH) — Major General Yusif Badr al-Kharafi, under secretary of the Kuwait Interior Ministry, stated that the ministry is taking all the necessary measures and

precautions to ensure the protection of Kuwaiti officials and ministers during their journeys abroad, thus guaranteeing their security and well-being.

In an exclusive interview with Kuwaiti daily *AL-ANBA'* published today, Maj Gen al-Kharafi stated that the ministry is not able to guarantee this protection to all citizens during their travel outside of Kuwait and added that this protection should be achieved by the citizens themselves. He said: Kuwaitis visiting any foreign country should be careful to ensure his safety and security and that of his traveling companions. He described the motives behind the attacks and assassinations against Kuwaitis or GCC citizens overseas as politically motivated due to the current situation in the Gulf, as well as material motives due to the riches its citizens enjoy and their behavior, which attracts attention.

Regarding the measures taken by the ministry against those citizens who have harmed Kuwait's image overseas, he affirmed that many measures have actually been taken, adding that the passports of some have been withdrawan for periods of time commensurate with their offensive behavior. In some cases passports have been withdrawn permanently. The under secretary of the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry noted that the final aim to these measures is for the Kuwaiti citizen to behave in an appropriate manner and to avoid any harmful image and undisciplined behavior.

OMAN

Commerce Minister on Trade With UAE, GCC States

GF201231 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Colonel Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, minister of industry and commerce, has stated that the Sultanate is currently reassessing its present trade laws to make them conform with the rapid development the Sultanate is experiencing, and with the GCC framework.

In an interview with the Abu Dhabi magazine *AL-ZAFRA* published today, Col Al-Ghazali said the historical relations and geographical cohesion between Oman and the UAE have created a number of crossing points between the two fraternal states in the form of border centers. He asserted that these crossing points will help to develop and increase the very flexible trade exchange between the two countries.

On the prospect of establishing an Omani-UAE joint industrial establishment outside the framework of the GCC, the minister of industry and commerce expressed his opinion that this idea will be easily implemented, and that there is no objection to such an establishment so long as it benefits both countries and remains within the basic principles that led to the establishment of the GCC.

The minister of industry and commerce called upon the GCC states to support the economic agreement of the GCC and overcome the difficulties which may prevent its implementation in any GCC state. He affirmed that the Sultanate is careful to implement the provisions of this agreement. The minister of industry and commerce pointed out that there is a certain amount of cooperation with regard to the trade tariffs and resources which every GCC state provides to industry and to the private sector which invests vast funds in these industries. He said joint trade tariffs should be provided or brought nearer to each other if they cannot be unified for the purpose of setting up industries and in marketing products in the GCC states.

Defense Under Secretary Leaves for Saudi Arabia

GF221031 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Major General Hasan ibn Ihsan ibn Nasib, Defense Ministry under secretary and assistant chief of staff, and the military delegation accompanying him, left today for fraternal Saudi Arabia to participate in the Peninsula Shield II exercises taking place in Hafar al-Batin district in Saudi Arabia.

In a predeparture statement to the Muscat Radio correspondent and to the *JUND 'UMAN* magazine, the Defense Ministry under secretary said: These exercises result from the decision of GCC leaders that defending the security of the Arabian Gulf is the responsibility of the GCC countries. The outcome of the meetings of the GCC foreign and defense ministers proves that these meetings, held within the framework of joint cooperation, are of great importance in creating stability and security in our sensitive region — a region of strategic importance to the world.

Maj Gen Hasan ibn Ihsan ibn Nasib said: The previous exercises attained a very good standard. He said the chiefs of staff of the armed forces of the GCC countries met after the Peninsula Shield I exercises, which were held in the fraternal UAE in October 1983, and discussed all the positive and negative aspects of these exercises. On the extent of Oman's participation in the Peninsula Shield II exercises the Defense Ministry under secretary said: The Sultanate has a role equal to its fraternal states, and all of us complement each other. In conclusion, the Defense Ministry under secretary said: The Peninsula Shield II exercises will be held periodically in each of the GCC states in turn.

Maj Gen Hasan ibn Ihsan ibn Nasib and the delegation accompanying him were seen off by the Saudi military liaison officer and senior officials of the Ministry of Defense.

QATAR

Iran-Iraq War Escalation Foils Gulf Peace Efforts

GF200912 Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Doha, 20 Oct (QNA) — The Qatari daily *AL-RAYAH* expressed regret over the sudden escalation of the Iraqi-Iranian war in the past 2 days. It stated that this new development has foiled all efforts to put an end to the war, which is now in its fifth year.

In its editorial today the paper reaffirmed that the continuation of the war will only serve the enemies of the Arab nation as well

as deepen the divisions in the Arab ranks, weaken Islamic solidarity and question the credibility of the Nonaligned Movement and its ability to contain the conflicts of member countries, thus rendering the United Nations a mere stage to make statements. *AL-RAYAH* said that the pure blood shed in this crazy war, the massive economic means used for it, and the regional dangers that threaten the Arab Gulf waters appeal to the human and international conscience to increase peace efforts, even to impose peace by force.

In conclusion, the paper affirmed that there are many sides with an interest in the continuation of the war. In spite of the dissimilarity of the interests, the result is the same. This is the continuation of the political distraction due to basic national causes, foremost of which is resistance to Israeli aggression.

SAUDI ARABIA

Further Reportage on Visit of Libya's Al-Turayki

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD221526 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1305 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Jeddah, 22 Oct (SPA) — Saudi Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal today met with Libyan Secretary of People's Foreign Liaison Bureau 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, who is currently visiting the Kingdom. The meeting was attended by 'Abbas Ghazawi, the Saudi ambassador in Tunis, for the Saudi side; and Sulayman Badi, the Libyan charge d'affaires in Saudi Arabia, for the Libyan side.

Received by King

LD222141 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz this evening received Libyan Secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki who conveyed to his majesty a message from His Excellency the Libyan Chairman Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness the Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Libyan Charge d'Affairs Sulayman Badi. This evening his majesty also received YAR minister of state and chairman of the oil organization 'Ali al-Bahr, who delivered a message to his majesty from YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness the Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; His Excellency the Minister of State and member of the Council of Ministers and acting Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud; adviser at the Royal Court 'Ali al-Musallam; and YAR ambassador to the Kingdom Ahmad al-Mihani.

PLO's Yasir Arafat Arrives in Jeddah 23 Oct

LD230857 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0827 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Jeddah, 23 Oct (SPA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Jeddah this morning. He was met at the airport by a number of officials.

UAE

Delegation Returns From Pakistan 20 Oct

GF201001 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 20 Oct (WAKH) — Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, chief of the office of his highness the UAE president, and his accompanying delegation returned from Karachi today following an official visit to Pakistan. Upon his arrival, Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad stated that during his visit he conveyed a verbal message from His Highness the UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to Pakistani President Ziaul Haq on the bilateral relations between the two countries. He also exchanged views with him on the strengthening of these relations.

Newspaper Reaction to Increase in Oil Prices

KHALEEJ TIMES Commentary

GF191050 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 19 Oct 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Oil Situation"]

[Text] The British National Oil Corporation, following Norway's example, has also reduced the price of its oil below the OPEC market price of $29 a barrel, thus succumbing to pressures from the big oil traders who rule the spot market. In early 1983, Britain had provoked a price war by an equally unilateral cut, forcing Nigeria, the first country to feel the effect because of the similar quality of its oil, and there will be legitimate fears that another round of price reductions may follow.

The heat will undoubtedly mount on OPEC, which described the situation as critical in a statement yesterday. A consultative meeting of the organisation has now been scheduled for October 29, and it may turn out to be a crucial one. The trouble, of course, is that Britain or Norway are not guided by any community feeling and act according to self-interest. Recently, however, there were signs that non-OPEC countries were cooperating with the OPEC states in holding the market steady.

The cost of doing so was being borne largely by the OPEC countries themselves, many of whom wanted a change in differentials but did not wish to upset the organisation's joint pricing and production policy. That spirit of cooperation has now been eroded. Moreover, if the pressure on spot market prices builds up further, another banking crisis may also develop as severe competition for the market's share would lead to massive withdrawals by the oil producers. The disheartening development has come at a time when the demand for OPEC oil was slated to rise. As against an expected increase of OPEC oil demand by this year's end to about 19.5 million b/d, as projected by the International Energy Agency, OPEC may have to defend its official price by reducing the production ceiling.

It is regrettable that the European producers should forget the debt they owe to OPEC's self-discipline and to try and build up pressure in favour of lower prices. What the European and other non-OPEC countries should realise is that their wells are viable

today not so much because of modern technology as to the price their oil fetches in the market, and this has been made possible by OPEC. However, OPEC too has to realise that while a decade ago a country like Britain featured nowhere in the oil league, today it is in a position to influence the market. The sooner we can come to terms with realities like these, the better.

Clearly, OPEC members will have to close ranks and meet the latest onslaught on a unified footing. Yet another step could be to take up the issue with the main non-OPEC producers on the diplomatic plane.

AL-WAHDAH, AL-ITTIHAD Criticize Increase
GF201106 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Oct (WAM) — The UAE press today warned of a real war looming against OPEC and urged that there should be no retreat on oil prices, asserting that such a retreat would mean OPEC's disintegration.

AL-WAHDAH says that the danger threatening OPEC's future is becoming more serious with the entry of OPEC members and nonmembers in a declared price war "without taking into consideration the results that will be brought about by such a war in the foreseeable future — results that will affect not only OPEC members but also the entire world economy. Moreover, it will create a state of instability in the world oil market." *AL-WAHDAH* says OPEC will take appropriate steps during its extraordinary conference on 29 October to protect the present price structure in order to safeguard "the structure of OPEC, which is fighting for survival, and to maintain the rates of production and prices determined at the 1983 London conference."

AL-WAHDAH holds Norway, Britain, and Nigeria responsible for the direct threat to the oil-producing and consumer countries and warns against a retreat on oil prices. The paper says such a retreat on oil prices will have very serious consequences for the production market "because the producing countries will be compelled to disregard totally OPEC's decisions and export the maximum quantities of oil, either to the official market or to the spot market in order to make up for the revenues lost as a result of the fall in prices — revenues that are necessary for coping with their economic problems and debts."

In conclusion, *AL-WAHDAH* urges all OPEC members and nonmembers to shoulder their responsibilities in order to avert the disaster that is looming over the international oil market and to abort the international plot aimed against the producing countries.

AL-ITTIHAD asserts that since its establishment OPEC has been a constant target of a fierce war waged by the advanced industrial countries which do not want to see any of the developing countries of the Third World organizing themselves in any form to defend their natural and legitimate interests. Referring to the sudden and unjustifiable decision by Norway and Britain to reduce their oil prices, *AL-ITTIHAD* says the decision was a repetition of numerous attempts "to undermine OPEC's unity in order to bring about a total collapse in oil prices. Such an attempt has been made more than once in the past 2 years. However, such attempts notwithstanding, OPEC succeeded in overcoming these problems and some of its members made sacrifices to preserve OPEC unity."

AL-ITTIHAD says that the decision by some European countries to reduce their oil prices was not the only means by which the war was waged "for the war was waged by various means. Western media is one of the important instruments by which the war was waged. For many years, specifically since the rise in oil prices after the October 1973 war, Western media has been using all its resources in waging a feverish campaign against OPEC members — the Arab member countries of OPEC in particular — brainwashing Westerners into believing that the cause of their misery and all their problems lies in the price of oil and in the constant pressure exerted by what the Western media refers to as the oil cartel, OPEC, in increasing oil prices which in turn brought about a rise in inflation and prices."

Referring to the deceitful role of the Western media and their circulation of the poisonous rumor that the UAE has reduced its oil prices in the past 2 days — a rumor that was denied by Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister al-'Utaybah yesterday — *AL-ITTIHAD* says: "Those who run the Western media must realize that the UAE has been in the vanguard of the countries making efforts to preserve OPEC's unity, solidarity, and cohesiveness at all times." *AL-ITTIHAD* says that the war on OPEC represents "an integral part of the chronic contradiction between the producers of raw materials in the Third World and the producers of manufactured goods — and oil is necessary for the manufacture of such goods. Indeed, in many cases it is part of the primary material of manufactured goods whose prices are not open to discussion, whereas oil prices are always open to discussion. No one can dispute the prices of manufactured goods in view of the technological monopoly and the varying stages of development that exist in the world today."

In conclusion, *AL-ITTIHAD* asks: "Why do we not hear those who talk about the high oil prices also talk about the high prices of their goods? Why do they not make a comparison between the price of a barrel of crude oil and the price of a barrel of manufactured goods which they export to the oil-producing countries at exorbitant prices?"

The Al-Shariqah paper *AL-KHALIJ* predicts that after 2 weeks OPEC will announce the second official oil price reduction in its history. The paper says OPEC made the first reduction in 1983 when the continuing deteriorating situation in the world oil market compelled OPEC to reduce the benchmark price of oil by $5 to $29 a barrel. The paper asks what could happen in 1985.

AL-ITTIHAD says that there is a specific line that aims to bring about a preplanned deterioration aimed at destroying the economies of OPEC members in general, and the Arab oil-producing countries in particular. The paper says: "It is an economic war that entails all the destruction brought about by wars. It is a war that is being waged by the Western industrial countries against the Arabs and is part of a long-term strategy whose objectives may transpire only when it is too late."

AL-ITTIHAD calls for considering the effects of this war to realize the gravity of its objectives. The paper gives the UAE as an example: In 1980, UAE [oil] revenues totaled 53 billion dirhams. These began to drop until they reached 27 billion dirhams in 1983. The paper adds: "The difference between the present state of the national economy and its 1980 state is a phenomenon that we have known and experienced. We have known for the first time a deficit in the general budget and the consequent recession that affected construction programs, as well as commerce, banking activities, and expenditure on public services."

AL-ITTIHAD says that since 1981 the industrial countries have been implementing a program to reduce the demand for the import of Arab oil "and that was tantamount to the launching of the first petroleum war." *AL-ITTIHAD* then continues to review the causes of the war and says that in 1983 the industrial countries waged the second petroleum war which resulted in OPEC's retreat and its reduction of oil prices by $5. "Now as the end of 1984 approaches the third petroleum war is being waged by the decision to reduce oil prices — a decision that was made by a European country, Norway, followed by Britain, and then Nigeria out of necessity. The OPEC members hastened to call an extraordinary meeting to consider the arrangement of measures for a new retreat." The only option left is to launch a counteroffensive.

AL-KHAJIL Comments on 'Crisis'

GF211121 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0735 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 21 Oct (WAM) — In its editorial today the newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* said that the industrial countries would not have regained control of the international petroleum market during the past 2 years if OPEC members had prepared themselves for the possibility of a price rise at the end of 1984.

Under the headline, "The Roots of the Oil Market Crisis," the paper said that the industrial countries are, one way or another, responsible for the current situation in the oil market, but the oil-producing countries, including OPEC countries, bear a bigger responsibility because they agreed to link the production scale with the requirements of the international market and not with their national development plans, and because they accepted the idea that oil is an economic issue and has nothing to do with the nature of the structure of the current international economic system. It can be a neutral factor in the battle being waged by the Third World countries to change the economic system.

The paper pointed out that of all the reasons for the current crisis in petroleum prices, the primary one is the reduction of North Sea oil prices by Norway and Britain. However, the basic reason is the responsibility of the producers, whose only response now is reducing either prices or the production rate, after OPEC — for 2 years — has been moving on the basis of reactions. OPEC missed its chance to lay down long-term plans and implement its periodic plans because oil producers are dependent on the industrial countries for everything, from food, clothing, arms, and equipment to experience. This is the real dilemma with no solution in sight unless petrodollars are removed from the current international economic system, and unless OPEC undertakes economic, social, and national development plans to implement such a step by means of their oil revenues.

Chief of Staff on Peninsula Shield II Maneuvers

GF212012 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1845 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Oct (WAKH) — Staff General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, UAE chief of staff, has stressed that the Peninsula Shield II exercise is not only a military maneuver but is at the same time practical proof of the correctness of the march of collective action pursued by the GCC countries. It also is an affirmation of the insistence of these countries and their peoples to keep the region far from the conflicts of the superpowers and a declaration that the region's security is the responsibility of its sons without any foreign intervention.

In a statement transmitted by the Emirates News Agency, Staff General al-Badi said that the Peninsula Shield II maneuvers, which come 1 year after Peninsula Shield I, are one of the steps aimed to reinforce the armies of the GCC states and achieve the greatest degree of cohesion and conformity among them. It also aims to prepare them on all levels for the integration phase being planned by officials in order that these armies, wherever they are, become a united defense force that functions as a single integrated unit casting an umbrella of security and stability over all the GCC states which have called for and continue to call for peace, security, and stability as an irrevocable principle and as a means for human coexistence and for protecting their social, economic, and industrial progress.

The UAE chief of staff added that the UAE is taking part in the Peninsula Shield II maneuvers with a full battalion of support elements and that the movement of this battalion from its base in the UAE to the Hafr al-Batin region in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was in itself an exercise in rapid deployment. He added that this process took place according to the required speed and in the best manner and within the context of a unified method aimed at achieving joint operations and coordination with the rest of the forces belonging to the GCC states so that all these forces remain on the alert for rapid deployment to confront any emergencies.

Staff General al-Badi pointed out that the Peninsula Shield II maneuvers in which new types of arms and equipment are being used will be an opportunity to follow up the lessons derived from the Peninsula Shield I exercise which took place in the UAE last year. It will also be an excellent opportunity to exchange experience and allow contacts between the GCC forces and the Saudi Armed Forces which are able and competent.

He added that the results of the Peninsula Shield II maneuvers will be studied, evaluated, and discussed during the next meeting of the GCC chiefs of staff. He also announced the decision to proceed with the joint exercises of the GCC naval forces in the manner followed in the exercises between the UAE and the State of Qatar due to the important role played by the naval forces in the region.

Staff General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi is expected to leave for Riyadh tomorrow morning, Monday, in order to attend the

conclusion of the Peninsula Shield II maneuvers which aretaking place at Hafr al-Batin, northeast of Riyadh.

PDRY

Aden Comments on Palestinian Talks

GF201800 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Oct 84

[From "The News and Reports" Program]

[Text] Persistent efforts are continuing to end the differences among some groups of the Palestinian revolution in order to safeguard Palestinian national unity and strengthen the unity of the PLO. Within the framework of these efforts, fraternal meetings are currently taking place in Aden between the brother officials of the YSP and the revolutionary government and between the leaders of some groups of the Arab Palestinian revolution.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, held a joint meeting with PFLP Secretary General George Habash; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Nadim 'Abd al-Samad, secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party; Khalid Hamam, Political Bureau member of the Syrian Communist Party; and Ma'n Sharif, Central Committee member of the Palestinian Communist Party.

At the meeting the chairman stressed the importance of protecting Palestinian national unity and strengthening the unity of the PLO and its struggle alliance with Syria and the Lebanese national movement as a necessary condition to thwart all defeatist schemes intended to liquidate the Palestinian question and which are plotted by imperialist and Zionist circles.

Brother Muhammad also stressed the importance of preserving the energies and struggle capabilities of the Arab national progressive forces, and strengthening their cohesion with the nationalist and progressive Arab regimes in order to take a firm stand against the aggressive and conspiratorial schemes of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance which want to liquidate the liberation achievements of our Arab peoples. These schemes of the enemy want to bring back colonial hegemony over the Arab region, and obliterate the just Arab causes and rights, foremost among which is the cause of the Palestinian Arab people and their legitimate right to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to establish an independent state.

The parties of the Palestinian Democratic Alliance had arrived in Aden on 18 October to continue consultations within the framework of the efforts being made by the PDRY and Algeria to (?implement the clauses) of the Palestinian unity of struggle in accordance with the Aden-Algiers agreement and the resolutions of the PNC.

YAR

Foreign Minister Departs for Baghdad

GF221818 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 22 Oct (WAKH) — N. Yemeni Foreign Minister and the presidential envoy Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi left for Baghdad today carrying a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with bilateral relations and current Arab issues.

Continued Coverage of Prince Hasan Visit

Hasan Receives Council Chairman

NC220904 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA) — Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan received at his residence in Al-Tahirah Palace this morning Consultative Council Chairman Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim. After the meeting 'Abd al-Hakim expressed his pleasure at meeting with His Highness Prince Hasan. He said the meeting was a good opportunity for an exchange of views on Arab and Islamic issues to which the Jordanian crown prince pays great attention.

During the meeting Prince Hasan extended an invitation to Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim to visit Jordan at the earliest opportunity. Dr 'Abd al-Hakim said he extended an invitation on behalf of the Egyptian Consultative Council to the speaker of the Jordanian Senate to visit Egypt at the head of a Senate delegation.

Hasan Receives Abu Ghazalah

NC221017 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA) — At his residence in Al-Tahirah Palace, Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan this morning received Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production. The meeting was attended by 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Jordanian royal court minister; and Brigadier General Usamah Shardam, Jordanian Air Force commander.

Abu Ghazalah expressed his pleasure at meeting with Prince Hasan, saying it was a pleasant meeting reflecting the cordial and fraternal relations between the Jordanian and Egyptian peoples. After the meeting Prince Hasan and the accompanying delegation left for Al-Azhar where he will meet with Al-Azhar rector Shaykh Jad al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq.

Hasan Addresses Cooperation Seminar

NC221925 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] This evening His Highness Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan addressed the final session of the second seminar on scientific and technological cooperation between Egypt and Jordan, held at the International Egyptian Agricultural Center in Cairo. In his address, His highness the Jordanian prince touched on demography in the West Bank. He also said that the seminar was a good opportunity to exchange information on joint scientific topics of concern to both countries.

Continuing, Crown Prince Hasan said that the achievement of security and stability would represent the use of science and natural resources to serve of mankind, rather than develop military power.

The Jordanian crown prince called for an objective and neutral scientific study by a neutral state of the situation in the occupied Arab territories, as this would produce a clear-cut image of the changes generated by Israeli occupation. He also analyzed the effect of the Israeli settlement policy on the West Bank and Gaza populations.

Further on Visit of Italy's Defense Minister

Spadolini Discussions With Mubarak

NC221008 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA) — Following his meeting today with President Husni Mubarak lasting approximately 1 hour, Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini stated that discussions during the meeting dealt with Egyptian-Italian relations in all fields, noting in this respect the strong relations between the two countries.

Answering a question on military agreements between Egypt and Italy, the Italian defense minister said: I talked about this following my meeting with Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production. It is a question of drawing up plans for the manufacture of military materiel and identifying the kind of cooperation in that field that would benefit the two countries.

He added: This is the future of the military industry worldwide — joint military production among all countries, not just between Italy and Egypt.

The Italian defense minister said President Mubarak expressed his appreciation for Italy's role and participation in the Multinational Force in Sinai and also for sending minesweepers to the Red Sea. Spadolini noted that the meeting also dealt with world and regional developments and the restoration of Egyptian-Jordanian relations.

The Italian defense minister said that his meeting with President Mubarak was extremely cordial, that he conveyed to President Mubarak greetings from Italian President Sandro Pertini, and that President Mubarak gave him similar greetings for the Italian president and informed him of his feelings of admiration for the Italian president. The Italian defense minister also said that during the meeting, President Mubarak emphasized the need to utilize discussions and dialogue for finding suitable solutions for all the world problems. He said: I reaffirmed Italy's admiration and appreciation of Egypt's role in the Middle East and its role regarding recent events in the Red Sea.

To a question on whether Italy supports the convocation of an international peace conference — a proposal being circulated at present — Giovanni Spadolini said: If all the parties agree on such a conference, Italy will not object to it.

Spadolini Concludes Visit, Departs

NC221322 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini left Cairo this morning following a 3-day visit to Egypt, during which he held military talks with Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-

Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, on military cooperation between Egypt and Italy. High-ranking Egyptian and Italian military officials attended the talks.

Sudan's Shammu Reports on Meeting With Mubarak
NC221240 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received this morning at Al-'Urubah Palace Sudanese Information Minister 'Ali Shammu. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. After the meeting Shammu said that he submitted a report to the president on cooperation between Egypt and Sudan in the field of information within the framework of integration, as well as on the role the two countries can play in this field.

The Sudanese minister also said that during the meeting a review was made of future cooperation in the field of information particularly following the technological development expected from the launching of new satellites.

The Sudanese information minister also said that he submitted another report to the president on the Nile valley magazine expected to be published in the coming few months, and which will express the Nile valley people's hopes. The magazine, he added, will be published monthly and will deal with the Nile valley people's cultural, political, and social activities. He added: I received directives from President Mubarak in this regard.

To a question on the role of integration for expanding contacts with African and Arab countries, the Sudanese information minister said: Integration will definitely play a big role on the African Continent in view of the fact that although Egypt and Sudan are Arab states they are among the leading and founding states of the OAU.

He added:Any social, economic, and political grouping of this kind is a big achievement in the African arena.

He said that Egypt and Sudan are strongly coordinating between them in the sphere of foreign policy. He said that all the steps in the African sphere are taken after complete agreement between Egypt and Sudan, the result of which will be seen during the next OAU meeting in November.

To a question on the results of agricultural cooperation between Egypt and Sudan since the beginning of integration, the Sudanese information minister said: We have a very broad range of agricultural cooperation in the field of integration. This cooperation is among the priorities in the integration strategy aimed at expanding the agricultural area to achieve self-sufficiency for the Nile valley people.

He added: We have started with a farm in the (Al-Amazin) District of Sudan in which we are cultivating over 100,000 feddans. At this stage this cultivation is considered to be of a preliminary nature because the area cultivated in the future will achieve food security for the Nile VAlley people.

However he added, this stage is considered a nucleus which will gradually grow and be followed by the cultivation of several crops to achieve food security for the Nile valley people.

To a question on whether Arab funds were contributed to the agricultural projects the Sudanese information minister said: So far, financing of these projects has been by Egypt and Sudan, but the door is open for Arab capital to be invested in integration projects because we believe that integration can attain many of the Arab nation's goals particularly in food supplies.

He said that if land in Sudan is cultivated within the framework of integration, we can achieve self-sufficiency for ourselves and for the Arab world. He added: This is one of the topics to which President Mubarak is giving his personal attention, to achieve food security for the Nile valley people.

Mubarak, Saddam Husayn Hold Telephone Conversation
NC221222 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA) — There was telephone contact between President Husni Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn this morning. During this contact they reviewed the area's most important questions.

Oil Minister Departs for Geneva OPEC Meeting
NC221227 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA) — 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, left Cairo for Geneva today on a visit of several days to participate in the OPEC emergency meeting.

Ghali Returns to Cairo Following Kenya Visit
NC221157 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs returned to Cairo from Nairobi this morning, following a 3-day visit to Kenya during which he took part in Kenya's celebrations of its national day. Dr Ghali said that he handed Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, adding that he will brief President Mubarak on the outcome of his meetings with the Kenyan president and foreign minister.

Dr Ghali pointed out that the Egyptian-Kenyan talks centered on both countries' positions during the coming OAU summit, to be held in Addis Ababa on 12 November. The two sides also discussed arrangements for convoking the Joint Egyptian-Kenyan Committee. This committee, due to meet in Cairo next February, will discuss ways of enhancing bilateral relations in the political, economic, and cultural areas.

Ghali on Solidarity, Arab Summit, Tabah

NC211052 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that Jordan's decision to restore relations with Egypt is a major political event and an important development in the course of Arab relations. It also opens the door for all who are interested in bolstering true Arab solidarity.

In an interview with the weekly magazine *ROSE AL-YUSUF*, to be published in Cairo tomorrow, Ghali said that Jordan's positive action in restoring official diplomatic relations with Egypt is a step to correct the Arab situation and the beginning of an effort to secure Arab solidarity. It may also pave the way and present a suitable climate for the convocation of the postponed Arab summit conference, and for an attempt to establish a cohesive Arab front that can tackle current problems.

Asked whether Egypt would accept an invitation to attend such a summit conference, Ghali said that the issue is premature and must be preceded by various indications and actions. However, Egypt will always stand ready to join any sincere Arab effort to resolve our fateful problems and deal with the challenges imposed on us, he added.

To a question about the limits to which Egypt will go to defend the security of Iraq and the Gulf states, Dr Ghali said: Egypt's responses to all of the area's problems are based on its national commitment.

He declared that Egypt's diplomats are eager to continue contacts with Iraq and the GCC states. He pointed out that the contacts between Egypt and its many Arab sisters have never ceased, that Egypt welcomes efforts being exerted by the GCC states to strengthen their political and military cooperation.

On the issue of Tabah, Dr Ghali reaffirmed that Egypt will not relinquish what it considers to be its historic right of sovereignty over this part of Egyptian national soil. He said that Egypt will ask Israel to begin making the necessary arrangements to submit the Tabah issue to international arbitration. He pointed out that Egypt expects the new Israeli Government to quickly prove its good intentions and declared readiness to make progress on the issue of negotiations for creating an arbitration committee.

State Minister Al-Sayyid on Military Production

NC200717 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA) — Eng Jamal al-Sayyid, minister of state for war production, has said that new kinds of unconventional weapons manufactured by Egyptian military factories will be shown at the international arms fair to be held in Cairo between 10 and 14 November and to be inaugurated by President Husni Mubarak.

In an exclusive interview that will appear tomorrow in *AKHBAR AL-YAWM*, Al-Sayyid said that among the weapons to be displayed for the first time are a new long-range field artillery gun called "D-30 Egypt," antiaircraft guns, and tactical missile launchers.

Also on display will be new kinds of missiles, armored vehicles, Egyptian-made aircraft armed with guided rockets, and self-propelled weapons manufactured jointly with friendly countries including antiaircraft artillery and field guns, and long-range guns, Al-Sayyid added.

Speaking about the latest projects in weapons manufacture, the state minister said: We have completed several large projects, such as artillery projects inaugurated by President Mubarak and a project involving production and maintenance of armored vehicles.

In the area of electronics, Al-Sayyid said: Military factories are now meeting a wide range of the military forces' needs, including radio communication and multichannel sets.

Studies have been completed on the manufacture of radar, the state minister said, and this will soon begin, thus providing Egypt's electronics industry with an additional boost.

AL-SHA'B Reports on Anti-Israel Seminar

PM220901 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Oct 84 p 5

[Report by Tal'at Rumayj, Ahmad al-Kanani, Mayisah Hafiz, and Hibat Allah Yusuf on the "Strategies for Confronting Israel" seminar held at Cairo University's teaching staff club: "All Patriotic Forces Emphasize: There Can Be No Coexistence With Israel" — date not given]

[Excerpts] All of Egypt's political forces have agreed that it is impossible to deal with Israel and that the only way to handle it is to prepare for an all-out confrontation at all levels.

Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im Talimah presided over the morning session, at which representatives of the political parties spoke, with the exception of the ruling party, whose sole representative Dr Ahmad Mursi declined. The party did not send anyone else in his place.

The Socialist Labor Party [SLP] was represented at the seminar by Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad, Fu'ad Nushi, and 'Abd al-Qadir Shuhayb. Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad first delivered the party's general speech. He said that since time was short he would just review what was said in the party's program and conferences on issues under discussion at the seminar. He said: There can be no question that Egypt's national security is linked to Arab national security, which necessitates military cooperation among the Arab states and which makes it incumbent on the Arab oil states to bear the financial burden of the arms necessary for the confrontation states, especially Egypt. Accordingly, the policy of protecting national security militarily and economically should be based on the following:

1. War and peace: Our desire to establish peace in our region should not prevent us from making the necessary preparations for the liberation of our territory by force if peaceful methods fail. Peace with Israel involves military and economic risks, which means that we should always be alert and ready to defend our national security.

2. United Arab States: Egypt is a part of the Arab homeland, and the Egyptian people are an integral part of the Arab nation. Economic integration is the basis of objective Arab unity. Egyptian-Sudanese unity should form the initial foundation of a comprehensive Arab unity which should ultimately take the shape of an entity of united Arab states.

People's violence aimed at regaining rights is not terrorism; terrorism is armed action aimed at gaining something illegitimate, but when people act to restore their sacred and usurped rights then they are not terrorists but fighters and strugglers for their rights. That is why we hail the fedayeen operations which have shaken the United States and Israel despite all their modern technology, early-warning devices, and advanced weapons. With this kind of fedayeen action we can face and fight these lethal weapons used to rob people of their freedom.

Fu'ad Nushi then spoke. He said: The SLP rejects all initiatives which do not emanate from the Arab nation on the basis of Palestinian free will. That is why we have rejected Camp David, the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, the Reagan initiative, the Jordanian option, and any other deal concluded behind the backs of the Arab and Palestinian people.

In the face of Israeli ambitions and the new plots, the solution lies in the unity of the political, trade unionist, labor, and vocational parties, forces, and trends. That is the grouping which, God willing, will confront the Israeli strategy and liberate Palestine, Arab Jerusalem, and all the Arab territories.

Colleague 'Abd al-Qadir Shuhayb spoke next. He said: To put it very briefly, our conflict with Zionism is a struggle for survival. It is more than just a military and cultural conflict. It is a conflict between the Arab presence and the Zionist presence in the region. Israel wants to destroy this [Arab] presence. Confrontation should reflect the nature of the conflict and should therefore be comprehensive.

Egypt's experiement with Israel — so-called peaceful coexistence or, alternatively, normalization — did not put an end to Israeli ambitions.

In conclusion I say that Israel is the party which has benefited from this experiment, through which it is trying to impose more trusteeship on Egypt. The experiment has not put an end to Israeli ambitions in Egypt. We should therefore reconsider, and we can begin by standing united against Israel.

The NPUG was represented by Abu Sayf Yusuf and Dr Ibrahim Saqr. Abu Sayf Yusuf said: Contemporary Zionism represents, in theory and practice, the large Jewish bourgeois class which has succeeded in establishing a network of ties in more than 60 countries and which is an integral part of world imperialist forces which commit or threaten to commit aggression to dominate the world.

Our party, proceeding from the principle that it accepts what the PLO accepts and rejects what the PLO rejects, supports any phased plan acceptable to the PLO and based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, as well as their right to set up their own state on the liberated part of their territory. Accordingly, we reject the Jordanian option and the Reagan plan. In the present circumstances, our party accepts the Fes initiative and the Soviet proposals for a Middle East settlement.

We believe that a solution at this stage requires the following:

1. The Camp David line should be aborted with escalating steps by rejecting any restriction on the defense of Sinai and by treating the Tabah issue as a matter of occupation and not a border dispute.
2. Democratic liberties should be increased to safeguard human rights and enable the patriotic forces to have their own parties, publications, and other things.

At the Arab level, we support the Palestinian people's right to use all forms of struggle. We support the PLO's efforts to resolve its internal crisis. We support the daring and heroic struggle of the Lebanese resistance and urge that its glorious achievements be more publicized. We also support close relations between Egypt and Syria and Libya.

Dr Ibrahim Saqr then took the stand to complete explanation of the NPUG position. He said: The October war proved that there is much we can do where Israel is concerned and that Israel is not invincible. I want to remind you of the war of attrition which some people are trying to forget. It was the war most costly to Israel and least costly to Egypt. I believe that the main enemy of this country and of Arab progress is U.S. imperialism, and next to it comes the Zionist presence, which is a colonialist imperialism acting as a watchdog for U.S. imperialism. Under these circumstances, there is a conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. I say that we should discern this fact clearly and that we have no hope of genuine armament and preparation without the help of the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc.

Dr Ibrahim al-Dasuqi Abazah and Dr Hilmi Hashish spoke for the Wafd Party. Dr al-Dasuqi Abazah said: We should prepare ourselves on the basis that our conflict with Israel is a conflict of cultures, and we should have the necessary power, which should includeonly the means of war and fighting, but also economic, moral, and cultural power. Fighting is only one way of achieving objectives. It should have the backing of a strong economy. Israel is a foreign body and a foreign and alien culture, because those who run and move Israel were born and raised in Western and Eastern societies. By that I mean that they grew up in advanced industrial societies. The Arab culture and the imported culture of Israel cannot coexist. One of them is bound to devour the other. That is why the present situation between us and Israel is just a truce, or a state of frozen attitudes, which will one day explode. There is no limit to Israeli aggression.

Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Hashish then spoke to complete the outline of the Wafd Party's views. He said: We firmly believe that the Zionist "from the Nile to the Euphrates" concept is still very much on the mind of the Zionists, who still act on that basis. The Camp David agreements and the subsequent peace treaty were merely one stage in the implementation of that concept. Israel is in this part of the world with the participation and blessings of the two conflicting blocs. Both the United States and the Soviet Union recognized the state of Israel the moment it was born.

Fathi Radwan also spoke. He said: I will talk about the calamities that have befallen us since 1917. We should agree on a minimum level of common sense which says that you cannot but hate, antagonize, and boycott anyone who commits aggression against you. The Americans are saying that Israel should be stronger than all the Arabs put together. No U.S. President hesitates to say that to any Egyptian or Arab leader, or to say that the Arabs will always be defeated and the Israelis will always be triumphant. Do not talk to me about programs, parties, or trends. The United States must understand that our people refuse to shake the hand of any American or to allow any American commodity or newspaper to enter the homeland. The United States does have a weakness, and it can be humiliated and made to feel that it is threatened in this region.

The evening session was devoted to the views of public figures. Former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Isma'il Fahmi said: The solution can either be extremely easy or extremely difficult, because it is a question of to be or not to be. The easy solution is the solution of slogans some people revel in — like saying we are Pharaohs, or that we are Egyptians, or Egyptian Arabs, or Africans. These are all slogans which have nothing to do with the core of the problem which is: What do we want? By choice and decision we should define our identity and Egypt's national security.

Finally, without an army which possess deterrent weapons Egypt can neither set an example nor be strong. Once we have such an army there would be no need to go to war with Israel because Israel would in that case come to the negotiating table and respect international charters.

Farid 'Abd al-Karim, one of the leading advocates of the Nasirite philosophy and policies, spoke next. He said: Israel has provided evidence that peaceful coexistence with it is impossible. Our only choice is all-out confrontation. We must conduct our conflict with the United States at all political, economic, and military levels. There are three very simple and objective prerequisites:

1. Militarization of the Egyptian people and the entire Arab nation.
2. The parasite classes which are subservient to the United States must fall.
3. We should do what Israel itself is doing, namely build armed settlements and colonies. A 1,000-mile journey begins with one step.

The last speaker was Sa'id al-Nishani. He delivered the speech prepared by the support committee which sponsored the seminar. That speech was printed and distributed to those attending the seminar. It said: The historic challenge facing the Arab nation is the challenge posed by the Zionist entity and planted by world imperialism and Zionism in the heart of the Arab world. It is one of the most serious challenges facing our nation, its freedom, and its progress.

The Zionist entity is an outpost of imperialism in the region. Its task is to impede and strike at any national democratic development in our region, be it economic, social, or scientific. It also has its own interests. Its ambition is to become a local imperialist power and have the Arab markets open to its products, thus taking it beyond its limited and disturbed local market. Its ambition is to occupy and seize more Arab territory to make room for more Jewish immigration. To imagine peace in the Middle East in the presence of that racist entity is to imagine complete Arab capitulation to all imperialist and Zionist designs, and to the entity itself.

The question of settling the conflict with the Zionist entity cannot fundamentally be separated from the question of settling the conflict with imperialism in general and the United States, our main enemy, in particular. That conflict cannot be settled through any formula for a peaceful solution. Therefore:

1. We should no longer cling to the illusions of a peaceful settlement with the Zionist enemy and we should form a broad national and democratic front in Egypt to fulfill the democratic aspirations of the masses, raise their standards, and mobilize them against imperialism and Zionism, and also build up support for the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance.

2. We should form popular resistance committees in the factories, establishments, suburbs, and villages. The people of Sinai should be armed and the borders of all the Arab countries should be open to the Palestinian resistance.

3. The open-door economic policy should be abolished and the imperialist attrition of our country must end.

After the speech of the Committee for the Support of the Lebanese and Palestinian People, a dialogue was held. It showed that the conference participants were unanimous in their desire to not allow coexistence with the Zionist entity. They all agreed that all the Arab countries, with Egypt at the center, should prepare for total confrontation with that entity.

Briefs

New Envoy to UK — London, Oct 17 (KUNA) — British Foreign Office Minister Richard Luce was due to hold talks Wednesday afternoon with the new Egyptian ambassador here, Yusuf Sharara, on the latest developments in the Middle East, the Israeli pullback from Lebanon, and bilateral relations, diplomatic sources here said. The Foreign Office would only say that it was the first call by the Egyptian envoy, who arrived here last month. He replaced Ambassador Hasan Abu Sa'dah, who was transferred to another post. [Text] [*Kuwait KUNA in English 1627 GMT 17 Oct 84 LD*]

Saddam Husayn Receives Call From Mubarak

JN221737 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received a telephone call this morning from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak inquiring about the situation at the front and congratulating him on the victory achieved by our forces over the Iranian aggressors.

The president assured Mubarak that all was well and underscored the Iraqis' determination and steadfastness in the face of the evil ambitions against the Arab nation.

Saddam Cables Pope on Vatican National Day

JN220938 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Oct (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has congratulated Pope Paul II on the Vatican national day.

The president's cable read: On behalf of Iraq and in my own name, I send Your Holiness warm greetings. Wishing you good health and happiness and affirming on this occasion Iraq's desire that peace and cooperation prevail in the world.

Reportage on Visit of Yasir 'Arafat to Baghdad

Arrives for 'Short Visit'

JN211146 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA) — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Baghdad at noon today on a short visit to Iraq.

He was welcomed at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the liberation movements office in the RCC, and members of the office.

Received by Tariq 'Aziz

JN211850 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA) — This evening, Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the liberation movements office in the RCC, received here PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently visiting Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed Iraq's full support for the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative. They discussed the Arab and Palestinian situations and issues of common interest.

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN221648 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met in Baghdad this morning with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. They reviewed the current Arab situation and the challenges facing the Arab nation. They also reviewed the situation in the occupied territory and the ways to back the struggle of our Palestinian people who are firmly resisting Zionist settlement plans and terrorism. Furthermore, they reviewed recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

The Iraqi president affirmed to Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar Iraq's firm stand in supporting the struggle of our people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative, and in backing the PLO's legitimate leadership, unity, and indpendent national decisionmaking in order to strengthen Palestinian and Arab struggle.

The Iraqi president also affirmed Iraq's readiness to give all forms of moral and material support to the PLO.

The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. It was attended on the Palestinian side by Brother Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee and political adviser to Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar; and Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, PLO representative in fraternal Iraq.

Meets Diplomats in Baghdad

JN221658 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received at his place of residence in Baghdad the heads of diplomatic missions in Baghdad. He reviewed with them the current situation in the region and the dangers and plots threatening the Palestinian revolution's unity and legitimacy.

The brother commander affirmed the importance of restoring Arab solidarity in order to put an end to the current bad situation in the Arab nation and to confront U.S. plans which seek to subjugate the Arab nation. The leader of the Palestinian revolution also affirmed that our heroic Palestinian people in the occupied homeland are firmly resisting Zionist settlement plans and terrorism.

At the end of the meeting, Abdeslam Znined, the Moroccan ambassador and dean of the diplomatic corps in Iraq, thanked the brother commander in chief for giving the heads of diplomatic missions the opportunity to meet with him. He affirmed support for the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and called for more Arab moral and material support for the PLO.

Leaves Baghdad 22 Oct

JN221930 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, left Baghdad this evening at the end of a short visit to Iraq. He was seen off at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the liberation movements office in the RCC; Taha Yasin al-'Ali, Foreign Ministry under secretary; the head and members of the

liberation movements office; and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, director of the PLO office in Baghdad.

YAR Presidential Envoy Arrives in Baghdad

JN230930 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0839 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA) — Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, YAR foreign minister and President 'Ali Abdallah Salih's envoy to President Saddam Husayn arrived here last night.

In a statement to INA, Dr al-Asbahi said that he is carrying a message from Colonel 'Ali Abdallah Salih to his brother President Saddam Husayn on Arab political developments and issues of common interest.

He added that during the visit, he will hold talks with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to exchange viewpoints on a number of current Arab and international political issues.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Taha Yasin 'Ali, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the YAR ambassador in Baghdad received him at the airport.

Delivers Message to Husayn

JN230953 Baghdad INA in Aabic 0925 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from YAR President Colonel 'Ali Abdallah Salih on fraternal cooperation between Iraq and the YAR and the situation in the region.

Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, YAR foreign minister, delivered the message to President Saddam Husayn when the president received him this morning. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the president's secretary; and the YAR charge d'affaires in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Ramadan Receives French Ambassador Depis

JN221500 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Paul Depis, French ambassador in Baghdad here today. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in all areas and in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

Industry Minister Leaves for Arab Meeting

JN221502 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA) — Industry and Minerals Minister Subhi Yasin left Baghdad for Rabat today heading a delegation that will participate in the sixth session of the ministerial council of the Arab organization for mineral resources. The council will meet in Rabat on Wednesday. The session will last 2 days.

Information Minister on Iranian Aggression

JN221643 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1610 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, has stated that Iraq's borders will be a graveyard for the forces of the criminal Iranian regime if they try their bad luck by attacking our valiant armed units. At a news conference attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies, press, and television today, Jasim said: We challenge the Tehran rulers: If they push their forces into a new aggression against our country, then the fate of this aggression will not be any better than their frustrated aggression in the Sayf Sa'd area.

The minister of culture and information added: The rancorous Iranian regime, through its aggression against our units in the II Army Corps sector, sought to lift the morale of its defeated forces. However, the result was one of frustration and humiliation. Latif Nusayif Jasim added: Our valiant Armed Forces are fighting the enemy with a unique heroism in defense of our soil. Our intrepid soldiers enjoy a morale which has no bounds and this was translated in the splendid victories they had scored in all the battles which have taken place on the front lines since the beginning of the war under struggler President Saddam Husayn. Jasim added: Our soldiers will confront any new aggression with the same enthusiasm. He said: the valiant Iraqi forces possess huge military potential and sophisticated weapons and are capable of defeating the aggressor forces and inflicting on Iran great harm. Jasim stressed that if anyone seeks death, then let him come forth.

The minister of culture and information added : Within our borders our forces are strong, our defenses are impregnable, our national economy is sound, and our domestic front is cohesive. We are capable of meeting the requirements of the war imposed on our country no matter how long it will last.

70 'Economic Targets' Selected

JN222104 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Oct 84

[George Qurdahi dispatch from Baghdad carried within "Panorama" program]

[Excerpts] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi culture and information minister, held a press conference in Baghdad today that was attended by a large number of foreign correspondents. In this press conference, the Iraqi minister said that the situation on the front with respect to Iraq is very strong. He addressed a strongly-worded warning to Iran, stressing that in case Iran carries out a new aggression, Iraq will destroy 70 selected economic targets deep inside Iranian territory. He added that Tehran knows the quality and the quantity of the weapons the Iraqi Army possesses. He said: Therefore, let it shoulder the responsibility for any new adventure.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim appealed to all the foreigners who are working in Iran's economic installations to leave them the moment anything happens on the front in order to save their lives.

Communique Reports 2,499 Iranians Killed

JN221801 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Communique No 1,627 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 October 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In fulfillment of our Armed Forces' pledge to the people and their leader to pursue the barbaric remnants in defense of great Iraq, its history, and the security and happiness of its sons now and in the future, our Armed Forces continue to deal crushing blows to those who want to harm our country and who abjectly and stupidly refuse to respond to the call of peace. The results of the activities for yesterday evening and for today are as follows:

1. The aircraft of our daring Air Force continue their successive pounding operations, inflicting lightning blows on the evildoers and pursuing the Khomeyniite cliques and their military hardware. Known enemy losses sustained as a result of the blows of our valiant Air Force in the II Army Corps sector yesterday amount to the destruction of 450 vehicles of various types, 100 radio units, 6 personnel carriers, and 6 mortars. Also, 191 combat missions were carried out today. All our aircraft returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God.

2. With high capability, our valiant units, using all types of weapons, continue to deal strong blows to the collapsing enemy units and enemy troop concentrations and military hardware opposite our positions in the II Army Corps sector, inflicting on the enemy heavy losses in life and equipment in addition to the enemy's losses mentioned in our previous communiques. Known enemy losses opposite one of our other formations total 400 killed, 9 tanks, 2 vehicles, and 2 antiaircraft guns. Thus, enemy losses in life have reached 2,499 killed, a great number of wounded, and many prisoners.

3. Our daring helicopter gunships pursued their valiant activities against the retreating enemy units in the II Army Corps sector and dealt surprise blows to enemy troops, military hardware, and weapon emplacements, scoring direct and destructive hits. Columns of smoke and flames were seen rising from the hit targets. All our helicopter gunships returned safely and triumphantly, praise be to God. Our helicopter gunships carried out 36 combat missions.

4. The valiant artillery men dealt fierce and effective blows to selected enemy targets opposite one of our forward positions in the operational sector east of Basra, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting on the enemy many losses in life and equipment. In another area of the same sector, our artillery men destroyed three infantry positions, whose occupants were killed, and one machine gun position.

5. While our forces are challenging the Khomeyniite remnants in the battlefields, the Iranian regime resorts to shelling civilian areas. At 1015 today, the Iranian regime shelled civilian areas in the Basra suburbs. As a result of the artillery shelling, one civilian was martyred. What a difference between the deeds of the courageous sons of Iraq and the deeds of the cowards!

6. Escaping the inferno of the foolhardy clique in Iran, new groups of Iranian military men sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield and were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 October 1984

Spokesman Denies Helicopter Shot Down 22 Oct

JN221810 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA) — A military spokesman has refuted Iranian claims that an Iraqi helicopter was shot down. The spokesman said that these claims are groundless.

In a statement to INA this evening, the Iraqi spokesman said that these claims only exist in the minds of the Tehran rulers who seek to cover the huge losses their forces have sustained in their latest aborted offensive. The spokesman added that all the Iraqi helicopters carried out their combat missions with success and returned safely to base.

Tehrran radio in Persian had claimed that an Iraqi helicopter was shot down over Meymak today.

Army Chief Congratulates Saddam on 'Victory'

JN202024 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Cable from the Army's chief of staff to President Saddam Husayn dated 20 October 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And our forces, they surely must conquer. [Koranic verse]

To President Saddam Husayn, symbol of Iraq and pride of the Arab nation, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God preserve you.

Thus, the aims of the arrogant and frustrated ones have been defeated. They have failed to realize their evil intentions of harming the sovereignty of proud Iraq and of raising the morale of their collapsing forces. These maniacs thought that they would be able to keep the positions of the companies they occupied at dawn on 20 October 1984. However, the soldiers of immortal Iraq, the soldiers of truth and principles, the soldiers of leader Saddam Husayn belied their imaginations. Our men came out of their lairs and fought them with the courage of real men, the mentality of the wise, and the conviction of the faithful. Our men forced them to flee.

Dear president, your proud soldiers today wrote great epics, deriving their courage, wisdom, and swift decision from their victorious leader, God willing.

The decision on the counterattack was made at an ideal time and the implementation of the decision began only 1 hour after the historic decision by the historic leader on 20 October. The counterattack resulted in purging the targets of the filth of the evildoers. It was accomplished on this immortal day, the day in

which the people elect their genuine representatives — a day which the spiteful ones wanted to tarnish.

Thus, your brave soldiers proved that they are the better trained and the stronger in conviction, armament, and readiness to wage battle in all sectors of the front, no matter how long the enemy will continue to launch war on dear Iraq.

Dear president, I offer you heartfelt greetings and congratulations on this overwhelming victory. I wish your excellency a decisive victory. Victory comes from God.

[Signed] The staff lieutenant general, chief of the Army staff, 20 October 1984

INA Head Denies Iranian Troops Hold Territory

OW220139 Tokyo KYODO in English 0037 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 22 KYODO — Taha Yasin Hasan al-Basri, director general of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA), has denied speculation that Iranian troops are occupying iraqi territory.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE Sunday, Al-Basri said large-scale battles in border areas had finished by Saturday, that Iraqi troops had retaken their outposts and are now keeping their battle line.

The INA head said Iran is expanding its forces in the southern front, implying that Iraq is worried about the situation there.

He took a cautious attitude when asked if his country is going to mend its strained relations with the United States, saying there would be no fresh development in bilateral ties until after the U.S. presidential elections next month.

Relations between Iraq and the United States have been suspended since the third Mideast war in 1967, but Washington has extended massive long-term credits to Iraq for grain purchases.

U.S. enterprises have also conducted basic surveys on the feasibility of laying oil pipelines to Iraq via Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Diplomatic analysts say it is a matter of time before Iraq and the United States normalize relations and that Al-Basri's Sunday statement must be interpreted in the light of the country's relations with the Soviet Union, which is providing large amounts of military assistance.

Al-Basri said results of general elections held Saturday will be made known in a day or two.

He said the fact such elections could be held during a war with Iran has injected confidence in the country's economic development and the war into the minds of the people.

Al-Basri added the elections have strengthened the stability of the government of President Saddam Husayn, inaugurated in July 1979.

Dailies Promise Destruction of Iranian Forces

JN200912 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0817 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA) — Two Iraqi newspapers emphasize that the Iranian rulers and forces will be taught an unforgettable, hard, and deterrent lesson from their new offensive. In an editorial today, *AL-THAWRAH* says the Iraqi lesson for the Iranian regime this time will turn into a military catastrophe to be added to the series of losses they sustained in previous battles. The paper adds that the Iraqi Armed Forces are determined to destroy what is left of the Iranian war machine and the human concentrations thrown in by the Iranian regime.

The paper indicates that the Iraqi Amred Forces are alert and well aware of the Iranian regime's intentions and exposed methods of deception and camouflage aimed at diverting attention from its real intentions in the southern sector of the operational theater.

AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that a major catastrophe awaits Iranian rulers: destruction of their remaining strength. It adds that this catastrophe will not be like the other catastrophes that afflicted them because of their aggression against Iraq; it will be the final catastrophe.

It adds that the just punishment of the aggressors, who have ignored advice and rejected a neighbor, will come through a forthcoming final decision to send the Iranian regime and its Armed Forces to the hell that awaits them.

U.K.'s Heseltine, Delegation Arrive 22 Oct

JN221246 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, received Michael Heseltine, British secretary of state for defense, and the accompanying delegation at the General Command Headquarters this morning. During the meeting, the two sides discussed various issues of mutual interest to Jordan and Britain. The meeting was attended by the chief of staff and a number of his aides as well as the British ambassador in Amman.

After this meeting, the guest minister was briefed on the development of the Armed Forces and the role and duties entrusted to them. Heseltine then left the General Command Headquarters. While in Jordan Heseltine will visit various military installations and Air Force bases.

The British secretary of state for defense and his wife and the accompanying military delegation arrived at Amman airport this morning for a visit lasting several days. He was received by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the chief of staff and a number of his aides and their wives.

Confers With Husayn

JN221457 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Amman, 22 Oct (PETRA) — Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur received at An-Nadwah Palace at noon today British Secretary of State for Defense Michael Heseltine and his wife. The meeting was attended by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, Prime Minister and Defense Minister 'Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Army Commander Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir and his wife, the British ambassador in Amman and his wife, and the delegation accompanying the guest secretary.

A responsible press source in the Royal Hashemite Court announced that His Majesty King Husayn explained to Heseltine Jordan's position toward the current issues in the Middle East and Jordan's policy regarding defense and national security.

Al-Masri, Delegation Leave for Belgium 22 Oct

JN221305 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Amman — A Jordanian delegation led by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Amman for Beglium today to participate in the meetings of the first Jordanian-European cooperation council.

During the meetings which will last 2 days, the two sides will discuss economic, technical, and financial cooperation as well as ways of increasing Jordanian exports to the EEC and encouraging investment in Jordanian industrial and agricultural development projects. The delegation comprises Minister of Finance Dr Hanna 'Awdah and a number of senior officials.

Layla Sharaf Returns From Tunis 22 Oct

JN221912 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Information Minister Mrs Layla Sharaf returned to Amman from Tunis today. Mrs Sharaf participated in the meetings of the Arab information ministers' council and signed a cooperation information agreement with Tunis.

Finance Minister Visits USSR for Official Talks

For an *AL-RA'Y* report on the visit of Jordanian Finance Minister Hanna 'Awdah to the USSR and his talks on economic cooperation, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 23 October Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT*.

Editorial Scores Reagan Anti-Terrorism Statement

JN230700 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Oct 84 p 4

[Rami G. Khuri article: "It Only Hurts When I Reflect"]

[Text] I have been watching American politicians for several decades, but I'm still amazed at the audacity they can display. When they hold a public office, their audacity quotient rises sharply, reaching its greatest height in the office and person of the President of the United States. True to form, President Ronald Reagan this week gave the world another example of the extremes to which an American president is prepared to go in the service of intellectual dishonesty and moral bewilderment. Listen, if you would, to these excerpts from a statement — no, not just a statement; that is too ordinary a word for the cosmic folk of Washington: This was a "proclamation", perhaps even read out while the President was riding a horse in the night waving a lantern in one hand and ringing a bell in the other — issued by the President to proclaim today, Oct 23, 1984, a day to remember the victims of terrorism. Mr Reagan said:

"As a world power, the United States bears global responsibilities from which we must not shrink in the face of cowardly attempts at intimidation. Instead, we must strive to carry forward the heroic legacy of those brave people who, in the search for peace and justice, have lost their lives to international terrorism.

"Because terrorism poses such a pervasive and insidious threat to all free peoples and claims so many innocent victims in its indiscriminate brutality, we of the Western democracies have embarked on a course of improved cooperation to counter this scourge against humanity.

"To this end, it is appropriate that we reflect on the tragic loss of life that senseless terror leaves in its wake throughout the world. We do this not out of fear or trepidation, but to show our resolve that the free people of this world will not be deterred from our purpose by threats of terrorism.

"Now, therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Oct 23, 1984, as a time of remembrance for all victims of terrorism throughout the world, and I urge all Americans to take time to reflect on the

sacrifices that have been made in the pursuit of peace and freedom."

Well, blow me down, as Popeye would say, that's pretty strong stuff. And what's more, it is all true and logical. So sign me up, Ron, make room for me on the horse, give me a bell and a lantern, and allow me to share your sense of outrage at international terrorism, and, as you have so aptly said, "to reflect on the tragic loss of life that senseless terror leaves in its wake throughout the world."

But I'm not a president of the United States, and do not yet have the audacity to proclaim entire days of remembrance for anybody. I'm a newspaper writer for a little paper in a little country. If Mr Reagan has some spare moments in between all the proclaiming and remembering he does these days, then he might like to share my reflections from this corner of the world:

I am reflecting, as Ronald Reagan asks, on the indiscriminate brutality of terrorism, yet cannot help but think of another brutality. I think of a great power that has brutalised its own ethical standards by financing the longest military occupation of the 20th century, the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan.

I am reflecting, as Ronald Reagan asks, about the threat of terrorism to all free peoples, yet cannot but help wondering whether all those free people have ever reflected themselves on how far their freedom extends? I wonder, more specifically, why such a great power and a great nation as the United States deemed it appropriate in the second decade of this century to proclaim to the world the truly heroic concept of the national self-determination of all people, and yet today finds itself unable to even say that the Palestinians have the right to national self-determination? Why not? If it's so great to be free, it must be awful to have your freedom curtailed on a principle such as self-determination, a principle that is not only so dear to the American way of life, but was created and given life by the American people themselves.

I am reflecting, as Ronald Reagan asks, about the heroic legacy of all those who have died during their search for peace and justice. Yet I cannot help but wonder if heroic legacies are things that American presidents only invoke when it suits them, or if heroic legacies are more awesome elements of one's national heritage and history — reminding us in our frailer moments that great powers once demonstrated their greatness by being consistent, fair and forceful, and thereby became great powers, that generated heroic legacies that meant something. Heroism comes from standing by your national principles, not from ignoring them.

I am reflecting, as Ronald Reagan asks, on the resolve of the free people of the world. But I see the leader of the free world, the United States, displaying such a capacity for irresolve and a lack of political freedom when it comes to the Palestinian issue, that I wonder what Mr Reagan is talking about.

It is appropriate and indeed gracious to remember those of our friends and colleagues and compatriots who have died as innocent victims of terrorism. It is inappropriate and ungracious, however, for Mr Reagan to attempt to paint Americans and their colleagues in Western democracies as the main victims of "terror."

For terror comes in many forms, wears many clothes, speaks many tongues and rides many horses. Terror is not only the truck bombers and the airplane hijackers and the hotel bombers. This is all terror, to be sure, and is worthy of as much condemnation as can be mustered by innocent people. But there is another kind of terror, and one that helps breed the truck bombers and the assassins. There is the intellectual terror of great powers who claim to oppose occupation while financing it; who claim to seek Arab-Israeli negotiations for peace while insisting on conditions that make negotiations virtually impossible; who aspire to play the role of the mediator between Arabs and Israelis while pursuing policies based first and foremost on massive support for Israel; who invent the principle of self-determination for all people but then fear to apply it equally to all people; who speak of freedom but themselves practise political servitude; who propose peace plans with sensible elements in them but then pursue policies that allow Israel to make the peace plans look like the scribblings of little children; who cherish liberty but finance and acquiesce in bondage; who, in the end, compromise the full value of their noble principles by failing to live up to them.

I offer nothing new here. I simply want to raise a voice that tells the American President that his proclamations would be a lot more forceful if he talked less about freedom and acted more like a free man. If anything deserves sustained reflection, it is this. If anything can help assure that there will be fewer innocent victims of terror in the future, it is this.

Group Urges Return to Political Party System

JN221329 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Oct 84 p 1

[By Salameh B. Ne'matt, *JORDAN TIMES* staff reporter]

[Text] Amman — A group of Jordanian political activists have urged Parliament to debate the return of the political party system in the country, saying the absence of legalised political parties has led to the dissipation of political work and failure to involve the people in the political process.

In a memo to the speaker and members of the Lower House of Parliament, the group also called for the amendment of the 1960 Elections Law "to provide more effectiveness," and suggested a new law for municipalities in the Amman region.

The memo, signed by a group known to belong to the Unionist Democratic Association — a political party banned by the government — said that the way should be open for "responsible groups of citizens" to sort out election programmes that clarify national policies and social relations.

The group called on Parliament to reconsider the 1955 law which bans political parties in the kingdom.

"It is clear now that in all parliamentary countries political parties play an important national role in dealing with the legislative and executive authorities," the memo said.

It added that Jordan should benefit from past experiences in the democratic process to achieve the basis that provide for healthy and effective parliamentary life.

According to the petition, the current election law "is incapable" of absorbing vote registration potentials and does not help properly represent the political opinion of Jordanians in the East Bank.

"The Jordanian Constitution is still the best way to identify the relationship between the leadership and the people," said the petition.

The memo said the Election Law should always be subject to revisions and amendments and that in the current state "the natural and reasonable way to continue is to prepare the country for general elections within the next few years."

The memo was signed by Jamal Sha'ir; Na'ilah al-Rashdan; Ghazi al-Qasim; Tala 'Umar; Wajih Barakat; Kamil Abdallat; Ja'far Tuqan; Mohammad Mas'ud Adawiyah al-Alami; Ibrahim 'Attur; Mohammad al-Tahir; Bassam 'Abbas; Faysal Kan'an; Carlos Da'mas, Anwar al-Hadid; Awdah Haltah; 'Abd al-Salam Qamhawi; and 'Abd al-Karim al-Dabbas.

During the Lower House last session before the summer recess, the hottest session in the last term, 17 deputies forcefully called for legalising of political parties, the lifting of the martial law imposed on the country since 1967 and for more democratic and constitutional freedoms.

JORDAN TIMES Approves Call

JN221219 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Oct 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Parties Deserve Debate"]

[Text] The call on parliament yesterday by a group of Jordanian political activists to debate the return of the political party system to Jordan is a legitimate one. It is also a logical step following the restoration of parliament itself.

When His Majesty the King decided to recall the Lower House late last year, after a suspension that lasted for 10 years, Jordan was in great need of protecting its own constitutional life. Beyond that the elected representatives of the people had to be involved in deciding their own future at the critical juncture we were at then and still live today.

Parliament was restored — and the move augured well for the future. But it was the beginning of a new political process and not an end in itself. Thus we have saved the country from an hitherto impending constitutional crisis, but we have just begun the search for the right political framework for our country. Not forgetting that this also involves the wide-ranging questions and problems facing us in this part of the greater Arab Nation.

By restoring parliament, our hopes and expectations were not only to discuss laws and by-laws and allow certain freedoms of speech and expression to a real democratic life in the country and a true attempt at popular participation in shaping our political and social life as well. We have moved closer to these objectives in the past several months, we think, and that happened despite difficulties and obstacles most of which, incidentially, have not been unexpected. But we have also reached a stage where more work is needed to achieve political maturity and a truly fair and sound system of government. Hence the importance of political parties and their inevitable contribution to the democratic process in the Kingdom.

The call on parliament yesterday to debate the feasibility of reviving the political party system is a serious attempt by those Jordanian political activists who issued it to advance the cause of democracy further. Nobody is saying parliament should tomorrow endorse the call and enact legislation to legalise political parties. But it can and should at least open a debate on the subject.

The country stands to gain a great deal from such a good, and much-needed, exercise in serious political work.

Saudis Praised for Financial Aid Payments

JN230904 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Amman (*J.T.*) — Saudi Arabia has paid Jordan the third and last instalment of financial aid for the current year as provided for under resolutions adopted at the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit, Finance Ministry Under-Secretary 'Abd al-Majid al-Qasim has announced.

Dr al-Qasim paid tribute to Saudi Arabia for honouring its commitments on schedule. Saudi Arabian aid has helped Jordan carry out its national development programmes and enabled it to shoulder its national commitments towards the Arab nation, Dr Al-Qasim said.

Under the Baghdad summit resolutions, Saudi Arabia and six other Arab countries were asked to provide financial aid to the Palestine Liberation Organisation and three Arab states on the front line with Israel. Lebanon and Syria were the other two countries named to receive the aid apart from Jordan.

However, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had been the only two countries which have been fulfilling the obligations and the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to Support the Steadfastness of People Living Under the Israeli Occupation has launched a campaign to appeal to the rest of the donor states to fulfill their commitments.

The committee undertakes to channel funds to the people living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and support development schemes there.

Jordan was to receive close to $1.1 billion according to the provisions of the Baghdad summit resolutions. However, the Kingdom has been receiving only about half of the amount over the years. The United Arab Emirates, Libya and Algeria were among the other Arab states which were named as donor states under the Baghdad resolutions.

Al-Jumayyil Leaves for Tripoli, Libya 22 Oct

NC221342 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1335 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] We have just been informed that President Amin al-Jumayyil left Beirut airport 30 minutes ago for Tripoli, Libya, to meet with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. There has been no immediate information on the reasons for the sudden departure of President al-Jumayyil or on the topics which will be discussed with Col al-Qadhdhafi.

Responds to Al-Qadhdhafi Invitation

NC221426 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1410 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The Directorate General of the presidency has issued the following statement:

In response to an invitation addressed to His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil from his excellency chief of state, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, President al-Jumayyil left Lebanon on 22 October 1984 for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Al-Jumayyil Expected To Meet With Pope in Rome

NC221919 Paris AFP in English 1907 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Beirut, Oct 22 (AFP) — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil left today for an official visit to Libya and talks with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, official sources said.

Well-informed sources said that Mr. al-Jumayyil would disuss developments in the Middle East, as well as the reactivation of Arab financial aid for Lebanese reconstruction projects.

He was accompanied by Colonel Simon Qassis, chief of Lebanese Army Intelligence, and his representative to Libya Milad Qarih, the sources added.

(In Vatican City, a diplomatic source said that Mr. al-Jumayyil is "provisionally" expected in Rome tomorrow for a brief private visit and a meeting in the afternoon with Pope John Paul II.

(The source said that Mr. al-Jumayyil would probably also meet Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and President Sandro Pertini.)

Karami Reports on Cabinet's Economic Decisions

NC221558 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1410 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Statement made by Prime Minister Rashid Karami following a Cabinet meeting held at the presidential palace in B'abda on 22 October 1984 — recorded]

[Text] The Cabinet discussed the crisis in the stock exchange in Lebanon and the measures necessary to remedy the situation, so as to restore stability to our national economy, while adhering totally to the free economy system. Following statements from 'Adnan Qassar and Antoine Shadir, it was decided to adopt the following measures:

1. To increase the amount of security on free deposits in Lebanese currency from 30,000 to 250,000 Lebanese pounds, in accordance with the deposit security rules currently in force.

2. To seek to close private harbors. To do so, instructions will be given to the appropriate security authorities to hand over the fifth dock at the port of Beirut to the legitimate authorities. Administrative, legal, judicial, and security measures and actions will be taken to ensure that imports go only to legitimate ports. Security measures will also be consolidated at the airport and along the road leading to it, while the collection of customs duties at the airport will be tightened.

3. To establish a followup team comprising appropriate officials, to be chaired by the prime minister. The team will oversee developments in the economic, financial, and currency situation and do whatever is necessary to consolidate the state's foreign currency resources, including: a) to seek and ask the fraternal Arab states to pay the installments due in the aid that was decided upon at the Tunis summit conference and to seek further support, either in the form of new aid or easy loans. b) to hold the necessary meetings with Arab and international financial organizations to obtain effective foreign currency credit. c) to adopt austerity plans in government expenditures and to implement this austerity at all levels and in various fields, both in terms of implementing that which remains of the 1984 budget and in regard to the 1985 budget.

The Cabinet will meet in an extraordinary session on Saturday morning to follow up on the implementation of the actions that have been adopted and to consider new actions.

Moreover, it was decided to improve the collection of general revenues and to secure the roads leading to the departments of finance, telephones, and posts in the areas of Riyad al-Sulh and Bishara al-Khuri. It was also decided to combat attacks on both private and public property in various areas.

In terms of scheduling the Cabinet's work on political reform, it was decided:

1. To create a ministerial committee consisting of Ministers al-Huss, Birri, and Al-Hashim. The committee will study the question of increasing the number of deputies and of defining their number and their distribution. It was also decided to set up a technical committee to study the question of administration decentralization and to examine a new electoral law that will effect a broader and preferable representation. The ministerial committee will present its proposals and recommendations to the Cabinet in 2 weeks at the latest.

2. To invite the committees to meet successively: the committee on Constitutional Reform, the Committee on Legislative Decrees, and the Nationality Committee will meet on Thursday, 25 October 1984.

3. The Security Committee for the South will meet on 26 October 1984.

4. The Development and Reconstruction Council will rehabilitate the area of Ra's al-Nab', the southern suburb, the mountain, Tripoli, Zahlah, and other devastated areas.

5. To devote the Cabinet's sessions, from the first week of November, to drafting a sytem for distributing administrative jobs.

6. To schedule Cabinet meetings for the purpose of implementing the comprehensive security plan, to appoint an Army chief of staff, and to issue decrees that will complete the formation of the Military Council.

7. With the implementation of the comprehensive security plan, illegal ports, which jeopardize the treasury's revenues, will be closed, in order to consolidate our free economic system.

8. To permit some private banks in the provinces to represent the housing bank and to request that the housing bank draft a plan for this purpose.

This is all that was decided at today's session.

Karami Speaks on Tripoli, Army, Other Issues
NC221010 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Speech by Prime Minister Rashid Karami at dinner banquet held in his honor by the "North Haven" company in Al-Qalamun on 21 October — recorded]

[Text] Honorable congregation. In this beautiful spot that overlooks the sea from here to Europe we meet tonight to discuss our affairs and our anxieties which have multiplied following the tragedies and hardships which we have experienced and which we hope will soon be past memories. We are very hopeful now and in the future that we will enjoy security and safety and will restore to this society its genuineness, values, and morals. This is not too much for a people who have withstood the plots [against Lebanon] and triumphed over all the enemies who intrigued against us and plotted to destroy the landmarks of our heritage, our history, and our civilization. They wanted to fragment this homeland and to divide this people, but they were defeated on the rock of our faith, our steadfastness, and by our confronting all that they aimed and sought to achieve. This is because the faith of this people was stronger than their fleets, their hatred, and their ambition.

Therefore, we are fully confident that as a result of the people's steadfastness and unity, we will triumph in the end and Lebanon will return to be as we always wanted it to be — a homeland of freedom, of love, and of peace. [applause] For the sake of our interests, dignity, and sovereignty, we shall continue to work and struggle, to express our view, to define our stand, and to chart the path to our goals. It is no longer admissible for emissaries to come here to study and for delegates to explore and then return just as they came, without benefitting from the study or being satisfied with anything while we, on the other hand, are unable to express our views or declare our policy.

Therefore, it must be made clear to the whole world what our view on our issue is, what our objectives and aims are, and what we seek from every friend in this world so that he may stand by us and support our rights, our liberation, and our sovereignty. Our country, whose genuineness is deep-rooted, is adhering to its unity and calling for its independence; it cannot tolerate the treacherous occupation and oppressive practices for long. Therefore, we shall continue to work and to struggle until the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya are liberated, thanks to the steadfastness of the national resistance [applause] and thanks to the people's sacrifices.

We take pride in everything the people offer for the sake of their dignity and honor. We are daily realizing more and more the value of this (?country) both here and abroad. This is what we felt during our trip to the United Nations. This is what we understood from the joint Syrian-Soviet statement which gave its support for the process of national salvation, the process of reconciliation and accord, and the process of liberating Lebanon's south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya. In referring to this matter, and while appreciating such friendly stands, we want to emphasize that, in our appreciation of our friends and their support for our policy and work, this increases our confidence and determination to continue our march on the path of salvation and liberation.

As for Tripoli — this steadfast and patient city — the time has come for all of us to work together, by virtue of the solidarity of the members of the Lebanese community and their rallying around their interests, their present, and their future, so that the banners of love, fraternity, and solidarity will fly over this faithful and good land.

For the sake of all this, we shall continue to work until we achieve a better society following the agreement that was reached and whose general lines were drawn up in Damascus. We are in the process of continuing the implementation of this agreement so that security and stability will return to the hearts [of the people of Tripoli] before returning to the ranks. [as heard] Verily never will God change the condition of a people until they change it themselves. [Verse from the Koran]

This is our call for returning to our genuineness, love, and the values which characterize this genuine society. I emphasize that the overwhelming majority of the people of Tripoli are innocent of what has happened and is happening in our city. These genuine people will be able to eventually achieve what they seek and to triumph with their determination, love, and solidarity.

I want to promise you that the authority's forces, foremost of which is the Army, will not take long in going into the arena to assume their role and duties.

This is because the Army is from the people and for the people. The unity of this homeland and this people shall manifest itself through the unity of this institution. [applause]

While attaching hope to what has been planned and its implementation, the night will not last long and the morning will soon break. May you and Lebanon live long. [applause]

Sham'un Remarks on Financial Situation

NC220748 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Finance Minister Camille Sham'un has called for speeding up the tackling of the financial situation, because if we do not deal with the monetary problem then we will have neither salaries nor funds to purchase the necessary basic commodities. He called on the state to corner Israel and enter into negotiations. He added that it would be better that there be no government than for the Cabinet session to be cancelled due to the absence of some ministers.

Sham'un yesterday received at his house a delegation from the society of Lebanon's banks led by Antoine Chadir. They reviewed the financial situations and proposals to restore stability to the financial markets.

On the statement by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres that he rejects Lebanese-Israeli negotiations within the framework of the truce agreement, Sham'un said: I do not rely anymore on any of the Israeli statements. The official who states something today will not hesitate to state the opposite the next day. I do not rely on any Israeli declaration. I call on the state to corner Israel and enter into negotiations. We have to tell Israel: Let us end the issue. Israel is in no rush if we do not corner it.

Junblatt Leaves for Moscow via Damascus 22 Oct

NC221739 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt, minister of tourism and public works, left Damascus for Moscow today accompanied by a delegation of Progressive Socialist Party leaders.

A party spokesman said that Junblatt, who arrived in Damascus from Beirut last night, will meet with several Soviet officials to discuss the situation in Lebanon and current developments in the Middle East.

Junblatt Said Responsible for Dollar Hikes

NC210601 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The Central News Agency has released a report saying that Minister Walid Junblatt and some leftist parties in West Beirut are responsible for the dollar price hikes by private banks.

The report adds that Junblatt's object is to offset all or part of the 90 million pound deficit that the leftist parties are suffering.

Soviet Envoy Meets Chamber Speaker 23 Oct

NC231200 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] (Yuriy Suslikov), Soviet charge d'affaires in Lebanon, today met Husayn al-Husayni, Chamber of Deputies speaker. After the meeting, (Suslikov) said that Moscow is ready to examine any Lebanese proposal concerning UNIFIL. (Suslikov) also conveyed a congratulatory message to Speaker al-Husayni.

Phalangist Official Critical of 'Some Ministers'

NC221312 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpt] A joint meeting of the Phalangist Political Bureau and Central Council has been held under Dr Elie Karamah. Dr Karamah said some ministers do not include the national interest among their priorities. They are impeding government work, fomenting military clashes, and resorting to courses of action so inglorious as to merit no response.

Such, Karamah said, are the practices of these same persons who were supposed to fulfill their Cabinet duties with a patriotic spirit, a scientific approach, and a sense of responsibility. It is unfair that the Lebanese people should be made to put up with such irresponsible attitudes in these critical moments. These attitudes — toward the political situation and security — have immediate repercussions economically and socially.

Karamah added: Those who think they can overthrow the regime and assume power through such practices are wrong, because they will have to deal with us. We simply shall not tolerate such a situation. It is about time, they understood, Karamah added, that the 48-year-old Phalange Party knows how to deal with their tricks.

Karamah said: The Phalange Party believes in reform more than any other party. However, it is not a matter of reform. They are only paying lip service to reform so as to lend an intellectual, progressive, and modern air to their sectarian and reactionary demands.

Karamah pointed out that the place to discuss constitutional reforms is the committee formed for this purpose by the Cabinet.

Further on Clashes in Palestinian Camp

VOL Says 8 Killed

NC221255 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Clashes are continuing in the Burj al-Barajinah camp area. Unofficial reports say that eight persons were killed in the camp and its vicinity, among them five from the Amal movement.

Our correspondent reported a short while ago that all roads to the areas of Al-Raml al-'Ali and Al-Raml al-Wati, the Ba'jur road, the Al-'Amiliyah college junction leading to the airport road, and the 'Abd al-Nasir road have been closed and are receiving sniper fire.

The Amal movement is seeking a cease-fire and demanding that the perpetrators of the incident that took place yesterday and developed into clashes be handed over to it. The Lebanese Army is surrounding the Burj al-Barajinah camp in order to put an end to the conflict after its positions had come under fire.

Information indicates that Amal gunmen entered the aforementioned camp last night and kidnapped 30 Palestinians and that this caused the clashes.

Army Command Releases Statement

NC221432 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Statement issued by the Army Command in Beirut on 22 October 1984]

[Text] Clashes involving various gunmen broke out in the Al-Burj al-Barajinah camp early today. Army forces were charged to maintain security on the airport road and to prevent the expansion of the clashes. Some Army positions were subjected to gunfire. The clashes are still raging.

RFL Reports 'Violent' Clashes

NC221601 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The continuing clashes in the Al-Burj al-Barajinah camp grew quite violent at 1700. Latest reports indicate that Amal gunmen have been involved in the clashes and that they have suffered casualties.

The airport road is still closed in both directions. Gunmen have been spotted in Beirut's southern suburb and on the coastal line.

Amal Denies Involvement

NC221726 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The Amal movement Information Bureau has issued the following statement:

Some information media have reported an outbreak of security disturbances in Burj al-Barajinah between the Amal movement and Palestinian organizations. This report is incorrect and unfounded. The dispute within the Burj al-Barajinah camp is between two Palestinian organizations.

The Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade is seeking to end the conflict. The Amal movement is at the brigade's disposal to ease the situation and spare bloodshed. The Amal movement urges both private and official media to ascertain the truth before reporting misleading news.

Calm Follows Camp Clashes

NC230828 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Calm prevails in the Burj al-Barajinah camp and its vicinity following yesterday's clashes.

The Army Command's Guidance Directorate issued the following statement yesterday evening:

At approximately 1900 on 22 October, a security meeting was held at the Henry Shihab barracks under the chairmanship of the staff brigadier general commander of Beirut operations. The commander of the 6th Brigade and an Amal movement representative attended the meeting, held to discuss the incidents in the Burj al-Barajinah camp.

After the meeting, it was agreed to implement the following: to observe a complete and total cease-fire; to surrender to the Army those who were responsible for the incident; and to establish two additional checkpoints at the camp's entrances.

Calm Follows Clashes Begun by Army, Phalangists

NC222017 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Following a sudden flareup that was touched off by the Army forces and the Phalangists on the Dahr al-Wahsh combat line, calm now prevails, the result of a second cease-fire agreement, which went into effect at 2045.

However, armored personnel carriers belonging to the Army and Phalangists have been seen heading from Al-Kahhalah toward Dahr al-Wahsh.

Druze Again Shell Army

NC222203 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] RPG fire has been directed at Army positions in Suq al-Gharb since 2315 from the positions held by Junblatt's followers in 'Aytat, following guarded calm that began at 2100. A short while ago the firing escalated and artillery and medium-caliber weapons have now been used in the shelling.

Earlier this evening, the shelling by the Junblatt gunmen went beyond the Lebanese Army's positions in Suq al-Gharb and Dahr al-Wahsh and shells landed in residential areas in Al-Kahhalah, 'Arayya, Al-Jumhur, and Bsus from 1900 until 2100. The firing then stopped through a cease-fire achieved by the Security Committee.

Israeli Tanks Open Fire in Sidon, 'Ayn al-Hulwah

NC221406 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Israel continues to apply the iron-fist policy it declared in the occupied Lebanese territories. This policy is taking the form of violence and terror, raids, and arbitrary arrests.

Early today, hundreds of Israeli troops spread out in groves and villages around the Al-Zahrani bridge and opened gunfire. It is worth noting that the Israeli forces recently sent to the south 3,000 soldiers of the (Ghulani) paratroop brigade which specializes in street fighting.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces have operated vehicles on the coastal road and on the crossorads of villages in the Al-Zahrani and

Al-Nabatiyah districts. In Sidon and 'Ayn al-Hulwah, the occupation forces today created an atmosphere of anxiety when Israeli Centurion tanks randomly opened gunfire in most of the streets and in the direction of shops and passing vehicles, wounding a civilian woman. The 'Ayn al-Hulwah inhabitants and shop owners abandoned the streets and closed stores in an atmosphere of apparent tension.

What attracts attention is that the Israeli forces have again intensively operated patrols in Sidon after they had given the responsibility of security in the city and its neighboring areas to the so-called army of south Lebanon.

These actions were accompanied by Israeli warplane and helicopter flights over Sidon and Iqlim al-Kharrub, as well as over the first defense line up to Jazzin.

Despite these developments and the arbitrary security measures, an Israeli foot patrol in the Al-Sarafand area came under gunfire from a Mercedes. The Israeli forces immediately opened gunfire, wounding three pedestrians who were taken to 'Ala' al-Din hospital in Al-Sarafand.

On the Kafr Kila road, an explosive device went off on the side of the road in Kafr Kila village as an Israeli patrol was passing. Security sources said that one Israeli military vehicle was damaged as a result of the explosion. However, it is not known if there were any casualties. The Israelis threw a security cordon around the scene of the explosion and carried out a wide-scale search in the area.

Tanks Withdrawn From Al-Biqa'

NC230824 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] According to information received from western Al-Biqa', the Israeli forces have withdrawn from their positions on the Al-Biqa' front approximately 80 Merkava and Centurion tanks, which they transported on large military trucks to occupied Palestine.

Lahd on Role of Army of Southern Lebanon

NC191817 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Major General Antoine Lahd, the army of southern Lebanon commander, has stressed that Israel's withdrawal from the Al-Zahrani area is still a matter of conjecture.

If such withdrawal takes place, Lahd said, the army of southern Lebanon is capable of maintaining order there.

Lahd voiced his belief that the UNIFIL forces are incapable of enforcing order in any areas evacuated by the Israelis. The task of the international forces, he said, is usually confined to disengagement and monitoring.

On the possibility of allowing the Lebanese Army a role in the south, Lahd said that the Lebanese Army will not be assigned any role until an agreement is reached between Lebanon and Israel. Such an agreement will not exclude the army of southern Lebanon, he added.

Lahd wondered whether the Lebanese Government could maintain order in the south the same way the army of southern Lebanon is doing.

What happened in Al-Nabatiyah during the last month — since we took over security responsibilities there — is unequivocable evidence that the army of southern Lebanon is capable of keeping everything under control after the Israelis pull out, he said.

Lahd pointed out that the opening of the coastal road depends on more than one Lebanese party. If this road is opened, he said, it should be open to all.

Lahd concluded by noting that the Lebanese Defense Ministry owes his Christian soldiers 45 million Lebanese pounds [for salaries] for the period since 1979. Meanwhile, he added, the Muslim soldiers in his army have been receiving their full salaries from the Lebanese Government.

Al-Asad Receives Arab League's Chedli Klibi

JN221133 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus — At 1030 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting. The talks dealt with the situation in the region and Arab developments.

Klibi Concludes Visit, Departs

JN221413 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Damascus at 1400 today after a 4-day visit to Syria. During his visit, he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Minister of Industry Mahmud Qaddur, and the assistant director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Al-Kasm Briefs Cabinet on Al-Asad's USSR Visit

JN221157 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus — The Cabinet met under Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm at 1100 today. At the outset of the meeting, the prime minister briefed the Cabinet on President al-Asad's visit to the USSR and the talks he held with Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which achieved a profound, large-scale promotion of the relations of cooperation and friendship between Syria and the USSR in the political, military, and economic fields. This visit strengthened Syria's strategic power against its enemies and resulted in the two sides' full agreement on all issues of joint concern, both in the region and the world. This agreement will strengthen Syria's firm stand against the imperialist-Zionist and anti-Arab plots.

The Cabinet was then briefed by the information minister on the results of the Arab information ministers conference in Tunis and heard a report by the local administration minister on losses caused by the floods in Homs and Hamah following the heavy rains, the measures taken, and the assistance offered to the citizens there. The Cabinet then discussed issued on its agenda and made the appropriate decisions.

Soviet Official Cited On Al-Asad's Visit

JN230719 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Moscow — The Soviet Foreign Ministry has stressed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's talks with the Soviet officials led by USSR President Chernenko took place in an atmosphere of mutual friendship and understanding. This came at a news conference (Valeriy Sukhin), deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Department, held yesterday devoted to the Syrian, PDRY, and YAR presidents' visits.

He pointed out that the situation in the Middle East region raises concern in the USSR and the Arab states at the same time. He added that the talks took place in an atmosphere of mutual friendship and understanding, and that several issues related to bilateral relations, the Middle East situation, and current international issues, were discussed.

(Valeriy Sukhin) affirmed that the volatile Middle East situation is the result of the continuous Israeli hostile actions based on U.S. support. He said that the United States and Israel obstruct the road to real peace in the Middle East in an attempt to impose separate capitulatory deals on the Arabs. He stressed that a radical improvement of the Middle East situation can only be achieved through collective international efforts.

YSP, USSR Delegations Arrive in Damascus

JN221624 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, 22 Oct [SANA] — Sulayman Nasir Muhammad, YSP member and head of the Popular National Defense organization in the PDRY, and his delegation arrived in Damascus today at the invitation of the Popular Army in Syria.

Serafim Ivanov, of the Soviet Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, and his delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon for a weeklong visit to Syria.

Al-Ahmar Confers With Libyan Delegation

JN221601 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant Ba'th Party secretary general, received here today the Libayn General People's Congress delegation led by 'Ali Bilkhayr, deputy general secretary of the People's Congress. Al-Ahmar welcomed the fraternal delegation and cordial discussions were exchanged on the relationship that binds the two fraternal countries and the two political organizations. They also discussed joint action within the Arab framework and the role of the Arab liberation forces and the popular organizations in confronting the aggressive plans aimed at the Arab nation and its struggle.

Al-Ahmar also stressed the importance of the the Arab People's Conference as a framework for confronting conspiratorial plans. He also stressed the firm, principled position of the Ba'th Party and its revolution in Syria against the imperialist and Zionist designs. He said: We are aware of the extent of the dangers stemming from our firm positions, and that this requires a comprehensive popular mobilization to support our cause and foil the Camp David accords and the reactionary alliances that serve these accords.

He added: We appreciate our brothers' position in Libya toward strengthening Arab steadfastness.

On his part, Bilkayr also stressed the importance of strengthening the Arab national liberation forces represented by the Arab People's Conference. Bilkayr said: We are in agreement regarding efforts to find ways to develop this institution's work.

He also praised Syria's leading role in confronting the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary plans in the region under President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Ahmar Receives Egyptian Grouping Leader

JN221454 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, 22 Oct (SANA) — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general, received here this morning Fu'ad al-Tuhami, a leader of the Egyptian grouping abroad. During the meeting, they discussed the developments in the Arab arena and ways to confront the Camp David trend and the reactionary alliance which comprises the Egyptian and the Jordanian regimes — an alliance aimed at liquidating the Palestine question and spreading the Camp David trend in the Arab homeland.

Al-Tuhami expressed the appreciation of the Egyptian grouping abroad for Syria's principled policies. He also stressed the groupings' determination to continue the struggle at the side of Syria and the progressive Arab forces to achieve victory over the imperialists, Zionists, and reactionaries hostile to the Arab nation.

Al-Ahmar Confers With Lebanese Party Officials

JN221844 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant Ba'th Party secretary general, received in Damascus this evening 'Isam al-Mahayiri, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP], and In'am Ra'd, member of the SSNP Higher Council. During this meeting, the talks revolved around the latest developments in the Arab arena and issues concerning Arab expatriates in the two Americas.

Al-Ahmar stressed Syria's support for Lebanon and its people for the sake of liberating their territories and achieving Lebanon's unity and independence. He added that Syria will continue its efforts with all the Lebanese parties to promote dialogue and national accord so that Lebanon can achieve political and social reforms and support the Lebanese nationalist resistance in evacuating the Israeli occupiers from occupied Lebanese territories without any preconditions.

Al-Mahayiri also stressed the importance of Syrian-Lebanese cohesion and its role in the battle against the Zionist enemy. He also praised Syria's role, steadfastness, and efforts that led to the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. He stressed the importance of supporting Syria's steadfastness and its national, pan-Arab, and progressive trend under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad because Syria constitutes a base for foiling the Camp David accords and their Arabization, confronting Israel's aggression, supporting the Paelstine question, and defending the Arab destiny.

The two sides also condemned and denounced the move that Jordan's king has taken to restore relations with the Egyptian regime. They also referred to the dangers of the move of these two regimes to establish a reactionary alliance to liquidate the Palestine question and implement U.S. plans to spread hegemony over the region. They also called on the Arab masses and all the pan-Arab and progressive forces to mobilize themselves to confront and foil these plans.

Ba'th Party, Romanian Officials Hold Talks

JN222050 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] A session of talks was held at the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command building this evening between the Ba'th Party side headed by Comrade Mit'ib Shinan, member of the Ba'th Party National Command, and the Romanian Communist Party delegation headed by Comrade Ion Coman, member of the Political Executive Committee and secretary of the Central Committee. During this session, the discussion dealt with the ties of friendship and cooperation beween the two friendly parties and the means of developing these ties.

Comrade Coman referred to Romania's support for a just solution to the Middle East question and for Israel's withdrawal from Arab territories it occupied in 1967. He said that Romania supports the convocation of an international conference for peace attended by all sides, including the PLO.

Comrade Shinan gave a detailed review of political developments in the Arab arena. He referred to U.S.-backed Israeli aggression against the Arab nation. He emphasized the firm, principled line pursued by Syria under the leadership of struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad and Syria's firm opposition to imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plans. He said that Syria will continue to confront hostile plans. He referred to the attempts to expand and Arabize the Camp David line to include new sides such as the Jordanian regime. He affirmed: We are not alone in the battle against the enemies. The Arab masses support our struggle. We also have friends in the world, especially the socialist bloc countries headed by the USSR.

The two sides condemned the arms race policy and affirmed the importance of averting the danger of nuclear war.

TISHRIN on Reagan-Mondale Debate, Remarks

JN230836 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0728 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, 23 Oct (SANA) — In a commentary today, the newspaper *TISHRIN* deals with the debate between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his opponent Walter Mondale. In the debate Reagan held Syria responsible for the failure of his policy in Lebanon, while Mondale referred to the humiliation of the United States as a result of Lebanese resistance operations against U.S. interests in Beirut and the Reagan Administration's failure to retaliate against these operations.

TISHRIN says it is not surprising that Reagan held Syria responsible for the failure of his policy in Lebanon — a policy he tried to implement throughout the region by exploiting the circumstances of the U.S.-supported invasion and the Lebanese civil war. Likewise, it is not suprising for Mondale to call for

retaliation against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces because they dealt a strong blow to U.S. prestige in the region with their steadfastness and sacrifices. Reagan's defense of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and his claim that this invasion was carried out to protect Israel's northern borders are also no surprise, because it was his administration that signed a strategic alliance agreement with Israel.

The paper notes that Syria, which is committed to its pan-Arab principles of defending the Arab nation both now and in the future, reiterated this commitment through its stands on the various fateful Arab causes, particularly the first Arab cause of Palestine. Therefore, Syria confronted and foiled U.S. projects in the region. Syria's confrontation of the U.S.-supported Israeli invasion of Lebanon was the crowning of these stands. Through its steadfastness, sacrifices, and support for the Lebanese nationalist forces and the Palestinian resistance, Syria stopped and foiled the U.S.-Israeli onslaught in the region.

TISHRIN added that Syria's confrontation of U.S. fleets and allies, the expulsion of the United States from Lebanon, and the cancellation of the 17 May agreement were blows to U.S. policy and plans. Therefore, it is not surprising that President Reagan admitted the failure of his policy in Lebanon and the region and held Syria responsible for it.

Damascus on USSR Support, Shultz Remarks

JN221316 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Western and Zionist circles are expressing concern over the results of President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the USSR and his talks with Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko. This concern is understandable. It is even taken for granted that whenever relations, cooperation, and coordination between the USSR and Syria are strengthened, the Arabs' position in confronting imperialism and Zionist expansionist designs becomes stronger. Moreover, Syria's defense capabilities increase and draw closer to achieving a strategic balance with Israel. This strategic balance is a necessary foundation for, and is indispensible in, talking about the possibility of seriously seeking a just, permanent peace in the Middle East.

Anwar al-Sadat's experience confirmed that the U.S. option only gives the Arabs humiliation, national and pan-Arab losses, further concessions to Israel, and the deprivation of the right to adopt a national decision. It also confirmed that giving in to U.S. imperialism and its conditions for a settlement does not bring the region closer to peace; it makes the possibility of achieving peace disappear, and increases the possibility of armed conflicts. It is not unknown that there was more bloodshed in the region after the Camp David agreements than before them. Al-Sadat's experience also confirmed that the U.S. option is against a just, comprehensive peace and against the Arabs' pan-Arab and national interests.

In contrast, Syria's experience in rejecting tutelage and capitulation, in charting foreign policy on the basis of befriending the friend and opposing the enemy, and in establishing the strongest relations and cooperation with the international forces that oppose imperialism and Zionism, has confirmed that Syria's national and pan-Arab option is one that serves the Arabs' struggle toward regaining their usurped land and rights, preserving Arab dignity, and confronting U.S. designs to control the Arab homeland and its resources as well as Zionist designs aimed at territorial expansion deep inside the Arab land. It is also the option that provides the means of speaking about working toward a just, comprehensive peace based on the principles of the UN Charter and UN resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East. The Arabs' experiences have confirmed that President Hafiz al-Asad's course is the correct one. It is the course that preserves dignity, strengthens defense and economic capabilities, and helps to effectively and successfully confront the designs of the Arab nation's enemies.

After President Hafiz al-Asad's Moscow visit, successive pieces of evidence confirmed Syria's sound course and stands. While the USSR was declaring its decision to provide comprehensive support for Syria to enable it to confront Zionist and imperialist designs, its principled stand in support of the Arabs' just struggle to regain their occupied land and usurped rights, and its commitment to its proposal for convening an international conference on the Middle East under UN auspices, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was telling people in Los Angeles that peace, as far as the United States is concerned, is achieving a real peace for Israel. He boasted that his government expelled the Palestinians from Lebanon. He renewed unhesitant support for Israel — the aggressor, the occupier, and the one condemned by the United Nations and the international community. He also opposed convening an international conference on the Middle East under UN auspices.

The Arabs are faced with two choices: The U.S. option — which only brings the Arabs humiliation, occupation, and loss of dignity, land, and rights — or the national and pan-Arab course which Syria has adopted under President Hafiz al-Asad. It is impossible to choose any other stand. Anything else would ultimately mean joining the U.S. option, which is hostile to the Arabs.

Views, Commentaries on Situation in Middle East

AL-BA'TH on 'Separate Deals'

JN220834 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 22 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary entitled "The United States Is Directly Supervising Establishment of Reactionary Alliance," *AL-BA'TH* says: Amid the intensive efforts of both Mubarak and Husayn to crystallize the final formula for the forthcoming negotiations with Israel, the U.S. Administration has started peddling a new initiative on the Middle East, which may be announced after the presidential elections. This initiative may be the Reagan initiative itself with certain amendments to conform to the Jordanian king's move. The coming elections will signal the start of implementing the liquidation phase. Meanwhile, the

partners in the separate deals have started intensive moves to establish a reactionary axis under U.S. sponsorship. The United States will supervise the birth of this axis through Michael Armacost, U.S. assistant secretary of state and envoy to the Middle East.

Yesterday, Armacost began a long visit to occupied Palestine carrying amended plans, which can be described as plans of implementation for several reasons. The most important reason is that this envoy comes to Israel after Peres' talks in Washington, during which he obtained all he asked for in financial and military assistance.

AL-BA'TH adds: Other reasons can be found for the current moves by the partners of the reactionary axis in the wake of the visit of the U.S. envoy, who will visit Amman after occupied Palestine. King Husayn dispatched his crown prince to Mubarak to reach agreement on the formula of their final alliance. Simultaneously, 'Arafat moved toward Saddam. He will also move toward King Husayn once again. The least that can be concluded from these moves is that the U.S. Administration has ordered this handful of agents to begin intensive coordination whose immediate aim is to prepare a formula of reactionary alliance under direct U.S. supervision. Its future aim, to appear after the U.S. elections, will be entering direct negotiations with Israel, which would end in pompous and ceremonious rites like the ones that accompanied the first Camp David agreement.

The paper concludes: Therefore, agreement has been reached on implementing separate deals and liquidating the Palestinian cause. However, the first Arab cause has never been a possession of Husayn, Mubarak, or the rest of the reactionary alliance partners. The Arab cause has always been and always will remain the cause of people who have been struggling throughout the entire Arab homeland. Syria, which has been honored to enhance this struggle, will not allow the traitors to hold separate deals and Syria is so capable.

TISHRIN on Lebanese Cabinet

JN220931 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 22 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary entitled "Lebanon's Salvation," *TISHRIN* deals with today's session of the Lebanese Cabinet. *TISHRIN* says: The national unity government, which includes most of the Lebanese political and popular functionaries, is today, more than ever before, called on to close the security and political files to devote its efforts to the more important problem of southern Lebanon. Israel tries to keep south Lebanon an open wound and use the south Lebanese card in any future negotiations on a Middle East settlement. The Lebanese Government is capable of realizing this aim [as heard] if it becomes resolved to do so. This can be realized when all the Lebanese parties place Lebanon's supreme interest above all other considerations.

The Lebanese Government, supported by the Lebanese people and Syria's political leadership, was able to foil the 17 May agreement, impose security in Beirut and Tripoli, and bring about a truce in the mountain and other fighting axes. Efforts are being exerted to perpetuate this truce with the aim of restoring unity and amity to Lebanon. A government that could realize all these achievements can realize more, particularly since all factors for realizing more are available, such as the popular support and the unlimited Syrian backing of all the efforts to realize national reconciliation and build future Lebanon.

TISHRIN notes that the issue of drawing up a security plan for the mountain has become urgent so that the legitimate authority may take control of the entire Lebanese soil and so that Israel's allegations about the inability of Karami's government to preserve security in Lebanon and in the south may be refuted. It is also necessary to launch political and administrative reforms, whose basis were drawn up at the first session of the Cabinet conclaves, on the grounds of a national, demographic equilibrium.

Concluding, *TISHRIN* points out that the Lebanese Cabinet will be facing extremely serious and difficult issues. All must be up to the level of their responsibilities and must save Lebanon from its tragedies and crises. History will not have mercy on anyone nor will it justify mistakes committed at the homeland's expense to realize narrow, shortsighted interests.

Syria will stand with the Lebanese people to end their affliction, and will extend further support to them to save Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH on Reagan Plan

JN210811 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 21 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Attempt to Revive Reagan's Plan Will Not Succeed" *AL-BA'TH* says: It was recently noticed, particularly in wake of Husni Mubarak's visit to the Jordanian regime, that the Camp David parties have started intensive activity in many directions. All indications show that this activity is based on Reagan's plan, submitted in September 1982 and rejected at the time because it is more hostile to the Arabs than the Camp David accords.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Camp David parties' new move, which is assuming very serious forms, comes in the wake of a series of relapses in the general Arab situation in favor of the U.S.-Zionist trend. 'Arafat has prepared for this series of relapses. He held many contacts and meetings with Zionist officials and explicitly recognized the Camp David accords following his visit to the Egyptian regime and expressed his readiness to negotiate with Israel and to empower Jordanian King Husayn to negotiate with Israel.

The paper notes that this series of relapses in the Arab situation was recently crowned with the Jordanian regime's decision to resume full relations with the Egyptian regime while this regime continues to insist on generalizing the Camp David accords. Therefore, the general Arab situation is experiencing the most difficult stage and maybe the most critical stage since the conspiracy of the occupation of Palestine in 1948.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Therefore to confront and foil what is being prepared, we need a sincere Arab stand that will unite all the forces that believe in the liberation of the land and the regaining of all the usurped rights without yielding to any condition of our enemies who are the traditional enemies of our Arab nation.

Damascus Raps U.S. Moves

JN211345 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, there are numerous pieces of evidence to suggest that the U.S. Administration has begun a new move in the region aimed at achieving two fundamental objectives: First, using this move to serve Reagan's election campaign by implying that U.S. foreign policy is unaffected by setbacks and defeats and that such a policy continues under all circumstances. Second, preparing the atmosphere for a new initiative to find a Middle East settlement that stems from the treasonous Camp David course and continues its march with the newly revived Reagan plan. Such an initiative may assume a new name because the U.S. Administration is not as concerned with names as it is with the final aim, to reinforce Zionist occupation and restore U.S. hegemony over the entire region.

Within this context came the announcement in Washington that Michael Armacost, U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs, third in line at the U.S. State Department, will visit the region on a factfinding mission. What attracts attention is that the announcement of this visit coincided with intensive activities between the Camp David sides, which clearly announced that the aim is confined to supporting Jordan's restoration of political and diplomatic relations with the Egyptian regime and to encouraging 'Arafat to push forward within the framework of a settlement by reviving the idea of the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. This takes us back to the idea of a united kingdom, which King Husayn had previously mentioned and which aims at authorizing the Jordanian regime to represent the Palestinians in possible negotiations between Husayn and Peres which, if successful, will crown what the Egyptian regime had started at Camp David.

The Arab citizen cannot possibly be convinced that what is currently taking place in the region is purely coincidential. For when 'Arafat and [Salah] Khalaf announce at this particular stage that there is a need for returning Mubarak's regime to the Arab ranks instead of ridding this regime from the affects of Camp David, when Saddam's regime announces that his relations with the Egyptian regime will be restored soon, and when Prince Hasan goes to Cairo to follow up what had been agreed on in Amman between Mubarak and Husayn, the ordinary citizen does not need a great deal of effort to realize that preparation for the next Camp David move is working in accordance with the plan drawn up in Washington between the U.S. Administration officials and the Zionist enemy leaders — the plan aimed in one form or another at continuing the Camp David course.

Another point that attracts attention is Thatcher's statement that the United States will announce a new Middle East initiative after the U.S. presidential elections at the beginning of next month. Although Thatcher did not indicate the nature of this initiative, information circles in London clearly indicated that it could be linked to the military alliance between the Camp David regimes and that preparations for announcing this initiative are underway. These circles believe that the U.S. Administration is determined to make its new move succeed, particularly following the series of defeats it suffered in the region, crowned by the evacuation of the Marines and the abrogation of the 17 May agreement.

Despite this U.S. determination, it seems that the U.S. Administration senses the dangers which could threaten its new plan. Thus, the Pentagon circles have begun fearing the possibility of a new attack against its embassy in Beirut — an attack that translates the popular anger against the United States and its aggressive policy in the region. Undoubtedly, the new U.S. move, which coincides with a full mobilization of the Camp David sides in the region, will have no better chance of survival than its predecessors due to the nations' will and determination to foil all U.S. and Zionist designs and to prevent the region from becoming a U.S. zone.

Damascus on CIA Document

JN200725 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Washington — The U.S. Administration is adopting feverish measures to disengage itself from the major political scandal resulting from publication of a secret document emphasizing the CIA's involvement in supporting mercenaries against Nicaragua. U.S. newspapers say that Washington is trying to divorse itself from the document, which clearly exposes the CIA's role in recruiting mercenaries and sending them to carry out terrorist acts against the Sandinist government in Nicaragua.

The papers add that the document not only affirms the United States' adoption and exercise of international terrorism, but also strongly contradicts Ronald Reagan's claim that his administration has banned state departments from concocting murder plots.

Peres Addresses 22 Oct Knesset Session
TA221604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1410 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Address by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to the Knesset on the occasion of the opening of the winter session — live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, Members of the Knesset,

I thank the speaker for his blessings. I would like to tell the members of the House that the government will willingly cooperate with the Knesset and will insist on maintaining normal and respectable parliamentary life as befits the State of Israel.

Members of the House, I came here to tell this House that henceforth the government will focus on two main issues: curbing inflation and resuming economic growth. In order to curb inflation, we will have to tighten our belts, restrain ourselves and abstain, to work more and to produce more. The more fully and quickly we do this the shorter the difficult transition period in store for our society will be.

In order to resume economic growth, we will have to mobilize foreign resources, raise resources in our own country, transfer people from the services industry to production and change the economic structure. The meaning of all these is both more burden and more hope.

The national unity government began operating 38 days ago. It does not agree on everything, but it agrees on the need to unify the nation, to heal the economy, to secure the Galilee and to pull out of Lebanon, to strengthen security, and to resume the peace process in the region. The very establishment of such a government does not yet constitute a solution to any of these problems. A broadly-based government only created a better opportunity to tackle these weighty problems but it does not preclude the need for a struggle to overcome them.

The very establishment of this government has somewhat eased the burden of the national dispute and has mitigated the exaggeration which had bordered on fraternal hatred. It enabled us to begin tackling the economic issue, the problem of Lebanon, the procurement plans, and to resume the peace process. However, the bulk of the problems still lie before us; they are not yet behind us. When this government was established our economy was already at the peak of a whirlwind. Our economy was plagued by a series of maladies whose healing calls for contradictory measures.

Real inflation had reached 400 percent and it brought with it a concealed inflation rate of several hundred percent. [indistinct heckling by MAPAM's Victor Shem-Tov; the Knesset speaker calls him to order] The deficit in the balance of payments had reached $5 billion; the foreign debt had amounted to $23 billion; interest payment and loan servicing had been swallowing half of the state budget; the foreign currency reserves had dropped to a dangerous level; unemployment had expanded; services had grown; growth was frozen; and consumption had risen.

There is no uniform solution to all these serious problems. On the contrary, an attempt to overcome one of them exacerbates another. The curbing of inflation might increase unemployment; the reduction of the deficit might accelerate inflation. Quite a few economies in the world have been plagued by this malaise of both inflation, unemployment and freeze — what is called stagflation — and they have not found an easy and speedy remedy.

Our economic plan is based on four fundamental components: reducing public and private consumption; increasing foreign currency revenues and preventing its spending; adopting measures to curb inflation; and resuming the momentum of economic growth. There is a broad consensus over these four principles but the ways to implement them call for meticulous planning and detailed decisions about the order of priorities in their implementation, the pace according to which they should be implemented, and the way they should be carried out — whether through national consensus following negotiations or through legislation.

As early as in its first session, the government decided on the first move: curbing public consumption by cutting $1 billion over the next 12 months. On paper, the state budget is huge; it amounts to $22.6 billion. However, in practice, only about half of it may be reduced because the second half is allocated to loan servicing and interest payments. Out of the remaining $11.6 billion at the disposal of the state, $1.5 billion is actually designed to subsidize exports and basic commodities. A decrease in the subsidies for exports will reduce revenues in foreign currency; a decrease in the subsidies of basic commodities will raise prices and accelerate inflation. Nevertheless, we decided to cut subsidies for basic commodities — including the subsidy for fuel — in order to save our foreign currency, although we knew this would have an inflationary effect. Out of the $10 billion which represent the government's operation budget, over half is allocated to defense. It was decided to cut $300 million from the defense budget while the rest was cut from the budgets of education, health, housing, welfare, infrastructure and administration.

A week later, the government decided on the second measure: saving foreign currency. Also in this case we knew this move would influence inflation because between January and October of this year, Israeli citizens spent approximately $1 billion on travel abroad. In addition, several hundred million dollars were spent on imported goods. Therefore, the government decided to cut allocations for travel abroad by half and to ban imports of luxury goods for at least 6 months.

Now we have reached the two most decisive goals: curbing inflation and resuming economic growth. Both these issues have social implications. Measures to curb inflation should not only be shouldered by the salaried workers, and the resumption of economic growth should not be missed as an opportunity to develop further the development towns and areas.

Moreover, one should take pains so that one challenge should not eliminate the chances for standing up to the other challenge. If we deal only with curbing inflation, mass unemployment could ensue; if we deal only with resuming economic growth, inflation might soar. In order to halt inflation, a domestic dialogue in the form of negotiations is necessary. In order to encourage growth, outside investments are necessary and to that end we must persuade outside elements.

Therefore, we decided to set up an apparatus to start a dialogue among the main components of the Israeli economy: a joint economic council composed of the government, the Histadrut, and the Coordinating Bureau of Employers. The council headed by me includes 18 members. It began operating after establishing committees of experts who must devise detailed plans to reduce unemployment, curb inflation, increase work productivity, improve tax collection, and counter the black market. The finance minister has established a limited team of experts which is also meeting now and is concluding its work regarding the financial calculations, the legal steps, and the budgetary implications stemming from a national agreement which is at times called a package deal.

At the same time, the dialogue with the Histadrut is continuing. I was happy to read this morning about the decision made by the Histadrut Central Committee which, among other things, stated: The workers will be prepared to make a contribution to a comprehensive agreement in the framework of steps to heal the economy. I note with satisfaction the decision of the United Kibbutz Movement to lower their standard of living by 5 percent. I am very sorry that the prices of products are being unjustfiably raised and I know that a large portion of the manufacturers resents this as much as we do. Plans are being concluded and we are acting speedily without allowing panic to guide our considerations. I hope that in the next few days we will be able to conclude the negotiations and to work out the final details.

Along with the negotiations and the detailed planning, it was also decided to take measures — particularly through an appeal to the United States — to preclude a sudden drop in our foreign currency reserves, a shock in our banking system or a massive eruption of unemployment in our country. To that end, and despite the sensitive timing in view of the current presidential election campaign in the United States, I decided to accept the invitation extended to me by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and set out on my way.

When Mr Yitzhaq Shamir and I arrived in Washington, we presented Israel's real dilemma: How to remain a democratic and independent country capable of defending itself in the face of a situation where we are confronted with an Arab threat enhanced by massive Soviet collaboration; how can this be done without destroying our economy which is paying the high cost of defense; and finally, how can we provide a new and promising future for our economy? After all, Israel may be strengthened economically and weakened from the security point of view. However, what is really needed is to maintain Israel's security position and enable it, just as with most democratic countries, to heal its economy.

We knew that we were on our way to visiting friends; friends who were worried and not deaf. We decided not to conceal errors, both errors and sins but no crimes — we are not a corrupt country — and describe the distress afflicting us; distress albeit not despair. I made plain that in the economic sphere, just as in the security sphere, we intend to take the main burden upon ourselves. However, the economic burden — which also stems from the security onus — obliges us to look for balancing aid from the outside.

In meetings with the President, the vice president, the secretaries of defense, state and treasury, the leaders of Congress and the heads of the parties, we were given ample opportunity to describe our problems and plans, and we ultimately received a friendly and encouraging response. We said that we intend to take on our own the measures necessary to heal our economy. However, we noted that during the transition and healing period, we would need a safety net in case of a sudden drop in our foreign currency reserves or in case the credibility of our banking system is damaged.

We asked for an updating of defense aid and we particularly asked the United States whether it would be ready to help us resume economic growth and change the economic structure in order to adapt it to the new industrial era, and to help us so that we would need less U.S. assistance in the future. Without posing any political or economic conditions whatsoever, the President and the administration decided to heed these requests. In order to create a safety net, in his public statement the President included an expression of confidence in our economy and he also publicly promised that if through our efforts to curb inflation we should run into balance of payments problems, the United States would in close coordination with us proceed to prevent this and to overcome the problems.

In addition, the administration decided to put all its economic aid amounting to $1.2 billion at our disposal at once. The secretary of state also added that if we still had problems with our foreign currency reserves, the administration would be ready to defer for 90 days the repayment of $0.5 billion which is due between now and the beginning of next year. This is the period of time that the administration is authorized to grant without the approval of Congress.

I want to tell the members of the Knesset that out of a total of $11 billion, which represents our debt to the United States, $10 billion is owed for servicing loans for military equipment. Military equipment does not produce anything that can be used to repay debts. Therefore, any comparison with other economies does not apply. We took note of this generous offer by the U.S. secretary of state but decided not to make use of it at this time, because we believe that if nothing unexpected happens, we will meet our debt obligations as we have done in the past and up to date.

In the field of security, we pointed out that with the devaluation of the U.S. dollar — which has lost approximately 68 percent of its value over the last 10 years — coupled with the rise in the price of sophisticated military equipment — a Phantom jet cost $4 million 10 years ago and its current substitute, the F-15, costs $40 million or 10 times as much — no economy can grow ten-fold within 10 years. Therefore, in the face of these two factors we needed an updating of defense aid. The administration in principle recognized the validity of our argument and decided to discuss both the scope of aid and the IDF's procurement plan for the next 4 years on the working teams level. The IDF's procurement plan is, as a rule, based on a qualitative improvement rather than on a quantitative increase.

Also on the question of security, we emphasized that work should be supplied to Israeli industries, both by increasing orders from

our military and civilian industries in order partly to repay for the equipment we purchase from the United States and by opening the U.S. market to Israeli-made equipment and by purchasing Israeli products for the U.S. Army stationed in Europe and our region. However, we devoted the main effort of our trip to discussing the future. We asked the United States to help us bring the Israeli economy to the highest degree of development, a qualitative economy taking into consideration the size of our country, so that we can stand on our own two feet without relying on outside support. We explained that we intend to effect a fundamental and far-reaching change of our economic structure and base our economy particularly on export-oriented high-technology industries. To that end we will tighten our national belt, but in order to bring a ray of hope for the future it is important that the United States should also help us by investing, giving guarantees to investors, issuing development bonds, and establishing joint enterprises.

We added that we intend to channel our own resources in that direction and that we think that the Jewish people would also make a contribution. We said that we can begin this development now. The Industry and Trade Ministry has compiled a list of Israeli factories with demonstrated performances capable of doubling their production and of setting up branches in the development towns without any further delay. We said that we are determined that all this aid, the help for creating a ray of hope for the new economy, will be entirely dedicated to investments and that not even one cent will be spent on consumption or to maintain the current standard of living; we said that all the aid would be dedicated to investments.

Members of the Knesset, I must point out that this appeal was especially welcome. The administration decided to accelerate the process of signing the agreement on the establishment of a free trade zone begun by Minister Gid'on Pat and to conclude it within 30 days. This agreement will make Israel the only country in the world that will have customs-free trade relations both with the EEC and the enormous U.S. market. In addition, in his public address Mr Reagan included the following passage, and I quote: I heard a brilliant vision about Israel's economic future as an energetic competitor in world markets. We and Israel agreed to find ways to strengthen the Israeli economy's chances of growth and development by readapting its structure, increasing trade and investments and also by U.S. aid; end quote.

In order to implement this promise, we agreed on the establishment of a joint working team headed by senior representatives of both governments which will be backed by a group of economists, industrialists and entrepreneurs. The activities of this team will be followed by Congressmen and Members of the Knesset so that all the elements will coordinate their actions and exert joint efforts. These actions will be aimed at an immediate planning of this change and helping us during the transition period until we get out of this situation and reach the new era which industries in the world are already experiencing.

Members of the Knesset, one should not make light of the enormous difficulties in store for us in our efforts to curb rampant inflation. The government cannot guarantee a smooth transition. We will have to tone down our standard of living, give up luxuries, and once again be a country of working people. I appeal to the entire people and ask them to demonstrate economic patriotism which is vital at this time. This patriotism should be reflected in the daily concern of each and every Israeli who should restrain his expenditures, increase savings, prefer Israeli-made goods, pay his actual taxes, increase productivity and shirk any incident of speculation. During the next few days the government will be called upon to make courageous decisions — and it will make them. The government will see to it that the low-income sector of the population will not be hurt and that the high-income sector should not be pampered.

Ahead of us is a great opportunity to resume economic growth and to create a new economy. There are visible and concealed forces in our society; we have good workers, excellent scientists and technicians, entrepreneurs with great ideas and ingenuity, and many of them are overflowing with love for our country, with pioneering enthusiasm, and with a feeling of responsibility.

There is no room for defeatism in our midst. I am not impressed by expressions of mockery and skepticism. We have done great things in the past and we will do great things in the future until we once again become one of the most prosperous economies in the world, until we once again become one of the most productive and just societies in contemporary history.

Knesset Members, the Cabinet is dealing with guaranteeing peace for the Galilee in order to allow our soldiers to return home. The basic guidelines of this government stipulate that the Cabinet will do everything necessary to guarantee the well-being of the Galilee. Security arrangements will be reached that will allow the IDF to pull out of Lebanon within a short period of time as decided by the Cabinet. Approximately 3 weeks ago, the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs decided on the first stage according to which action should be taken to realize this objective. The Cabinet will debate the next stage, or next stages, next week.

Throughout these stages, the well-being of the Galilee or our boys should not be sacrificed on the altar of Syrian or Lebanese prestige. Israel has no intention of remaining on Lebanese soil or taking part in the handling of its affairs. The leaders of Lebanon, including Rashid Karami, tend to forget their role in bringing about the catastrophe that befell the inhabitants of Lebanon, when they agreed to allow the PLO to set up terrorist centers on their country's soil. By doing that, they exposed Lebanon to preemptive and retaliatory operations. And when they abrogated the agreements with Israel — the 1949 armistice agreement, and the 17 May 1983 accord — out of submission to Syrian pressure, they undermined the value of Lebanon's signature on agreements it is party to. Still, Israel remains interested in an independent and calm Lebanon, one which is not prey to Syrian conquest or a vassal to the PLO's terrorism. We believe that the way to achieve a comprehensive and real solution that would guarantee peace for the Galilee and at the same time not harm the peace of Beirut, or even that of Damascus, could be achieved by political arrangements with Syria, and military arrangements with Lebanon.

Israel does not want Syria to do it any favors. Syria must decide whether or not it is interested in continuing to have the IDF stationed 25 km away from Damascus. Israel's position regarding

the eastern line in Lebanon is clear and sensible. It is inconceivable that, as a result of an IDF evacuation, the Syrian conquest will expand either westward or southward, or that the area under Syrian control will serve as a basis for penetrations into Israel or terrorist activity.

The military arrangements in Lebanon are founded on a commitment Lebanon had previously undertaken, namely that in the area bordering on Israel, from which the danger of shooting or sabotage against Israel comes, a local Lebanese force will be present which represents the desire of the inhabitants of southern Lebanon for peace as well as the necessity to prevent forces aspiring to harm Israel from basing themselves there. North of that force, and south of the other Lebanese forces, as well as in the range between the [Mediterranean] sea and Al-Biqa', a UNIFIL contingent will be deployed to prevent the creation of tension between Lebanon's various forces. The leaders of Lebanon must understand that Israel is not an enemy of their country, and that we are interested in a fair relationship with all the inhabitants of Lebanon, and with each of its factions — Christian, Muslim, and Druze. At the same time the leaders of Lebanon must face the facts: How can they guarantee peace and quiet in southern Lebanon when they have not yet succeeded in guaranteeing peace in Beirut?

We have no objection for a link to exist between General Lahd's forces and the other forces in Lebanon. After all, this is the reality in Lebanon anyway — a country with a military coalition that parallels the civilian coalition. If the Lebanese Government wants Israel to take it seriously and respect it, it must respect Israel's vital interests, too. And the sooner that happens, the easier things will be for all of us. We will do everything to accelerate the processes in a bid to put an end to our involvement in Lebanon, and after arrangements are made to guarantee peace for the Galilee, Israel will seek partners to such processes. The timing and the steps, however, Israel will determine for itself.

We aspire to reach a solution to the disputed issues between us and our neighbors through peaceful ways and political negotiations. We have invited Jordan to enter into peaceful negotiations with us, to open a new page in our region. Despite the public negative reaction to this, Israel will continue to offer Jordan an honorable political dialogue, allowing Jordan to place on the agenda of these negotiations the proposals it sees fit.

We are interested in peaceful coexistence with the inhabitants of the territories. We will continue to maintain the open bridges policy, and allow the inhabitants to take action to improve their situation so that they can live honorably off their income. At the same time, we will react most strongly to any attempt to harm the flow of civilian life, involving either Jews or Arabs. Whatever the opinions regarding the future of the territories, the Government of Israel will ensure the well-being of the inhabitants and safety on the roads for all inhabitants.

I have sent a message to the president of Egypt, suggesting that we take joint action to improve our countries' bilateral relations. Mr Shamir met with the Egyptian foreign minister, and the two of them held a substantive and helpful meeting. Egypt is the most senior Arab country, and we are all interested in allowing it to fulfill a major role in leading the peace process in the region, and in imbuing the peace treaty signed between us with political, economic, and cultural content.

Knesset Members, our relations with the United States will continue to serve as the cornerstone of Israel's foreign policy. These relations are founded on a historic depth, a democratic content, and popular span, since the degree of warmth of these relations has been on the upswing since the founding of the state. They are founded on shared values, and are filled with the warm feelings one nation feels toward another that extend beyond their formal establishment. We thank the President, the administration, Congress, and the citizens of the United States for demonstrating this attitude.

The Soviet Union is not our enemy, but Israel cannot accept its one-sided policy which almost blindly supports all hostile positions reflected by the Arab world. At the same time, Israel will be prepared to renew diplomatic relations the moment the Soviet Union, the one who severed them, initiates such a resumption.

And, of course, one of our primary concerns is the fate of the Soviet Jews. It is impossible to subdue the identity of a nation by administrative means. Furthermore, no regime will be able to hold Jewish history behind prison bars. Israel is the country of its people, but it is also the only country for Jewish people everywhere. We will never rest until the Jews of the Soviet Union, Syria, and Ethiopia are redeemed. Immigration to Israel must once again assume a central position in our activities, both in regard to the Jews residing in the free world as well as in regard to the Jews whose freedom has been taken away from them. We believe that the right place even for the Jews living in prosperity, as well as for those living in countries of distress, is Eretz Yisra'el.

Knesset members... [interrupted by indistinct interjection by Knesset Member Shulamit Aloni of the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], who wishes to draw a distinction between the State of Israel and Eretz Yisra'el] What is it, Shula? The State of Israel, the State of Israel. Knesset Members, I thought that the State of Israel was in Eretz Yisra'el, but I may have been mistaken. Knesset Members, no one has spoiled us. [Interjection by CRM MK Sarid, who mentions Ben-Gurion in that context] Yosi, there is no need to tell me about Ben-Gurion, I knew him almost as well as you did.

We were born in distress, and it has been afflicting us now as well, but our people have never given in to distress; rather, it grew stronger because of distress. Our lives will not be characterized by the voice of despair or the tone of submission. Hope will prevail, and the true voice of our actions and existence will ring, and we will overcome all obstacles despite all the doubts.

Opposition Parties Criticize Peres' Speech

MAPAM's Tzaban

TA221720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] At the beginning of the political debate at the Knesset, the first speaker on behalf of the opposition, Ya'ir Tzaban of MAPAM, noted that 600 soldiers have already died in the course

of the war in Lebanon. He expressed disappointment over the fact that the prime minister's address failed to make any mention of an imminent evacuation of the IDF from Lebanon. He also expressed the fear that the economic plan that is slowly being consolidated will result in increased unemployment, saying that the attempts to cut wages are nothing but brainwashing. Our correspondent Tzvi Yisra'eli reports that the Knesset debate is continuing, and that 37 speakers have registered to take the floor.

MAPAM, Tehiya Reaction

TA221857 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Report by Knesset correspondent Jack Katzenell — live]

[Excerpts] Opening the debate for the opposition was Knesset Member Ya'ir Tzaban of the left-wing MAPAM party. One might have expected, he said, that after Labor and the Likud spent so much time negotiating over economic guidelines that they would lose no time in implementing them. Instead, he said, the government has wasted precious weeks while inflation runs rampant.

In regard to Lebanon, Tzaban said Prime Minister Peres seems to have heeded the threats of Ari'el Sharon and was not prepared to withdraw without cast-iron guarantees which are not realistic. When the Likud government went into Lebanon, Tzaban said, it imagined that it could control the imp, or demon, which it let out of the bottle with a string. But the imp had cut the string.

The government imagines it can use unemployument to rehabilitate the economy, Tzaban said, but this too will get out of control and will increase beyond the 5 or 6 percent envisaged.

From the right-wing Tehiya-TZOMET party, Knesset Member Gershon Shafat said the government should first of all cut its own expenses, particularly the number of ministers and deputy ministers. Israel is becoming too dependent on the United States, Shafat said, and it is difficult to believe that the proposed concessions over Tabah and the establishment of an Arab bank in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are not a consequence of American pressure. There is a danger, Shafat said, that the Arab bank will prove a channel for funds for the terrorists.

Wages, Prices Frozen; Dollarization Rejected

TA231126 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and his top economic ministers this morning heard proposals for economic reforms drafted by Treasury and Bank of Israel experts and decided to negotiate a package deal with the Histadrut by 1 November. They also rejected proposals to base prices and other activities in the economy on the dollar and, instead, adopted a program to slow down the economy based on the shekel. A wage and price freeze will be carried out on the basis of plans presented by former Bank of Israel Governors Moshe Zanbar and Arnon Gafni. The program will be implemented from 1 November.

Histadrut Supports Deal

TA221732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The Histadrut Executive Committee has decided to support a package deal as part of which prices, wages, and profits will be frozen; the wage and cost-of-living increment agreements will remain; full updating of the tax gradation will be guaranteed; and the real wages for low income families will be guaranteed. The Histadrut will also oppose a rise in unemployment, but will be prepared to help raise productivity. It will also demand the implementation of strict supervision and control over prices; increased collection of taxes; and stricter measures against price hikes, people who possess black market capital, and tax dodgers. The Histadrut is also demanding income tax relief for salaried workers whose wages have eroded and interest rates cuts for the financing of production for export.

Cabinet To Discuss Tabah; Peres Informs Basyuni

TA230642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] A proposal for joint Israeli-Egyptian administration over the Tabah area has been discussed lately. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the proposal was raised during Peres' visit to the United States and was forwarded to the Egyptian president by a third party.

The Cabinet will soon hold a discussion on possible solutions to the Tabah question. The prime minister conveyed this to the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel during their meeting in the prime minister's office in the Knesset building. Our political correspondent reports that Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian representative, reiterated his country's wish to negotiate on the Tabah issue. He stressed that this will contribute to an improvement in bilateral relations. Minister 'Ezer Weizman attended part of the meeting.

Our correspondent points out the fact that the the prime minister has received the Egyptian representative five times, but the Israeli ambassador to Egypt has not succeeded even once in talking with the Egyptian president, and the Egyptian leadership is practically boycotting him.

Peres Denies Informing Egypt

TA230838 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] The prime minister denies the report that a proposal to settle the Tabah dispute has been forwarded to the Egyptian president. Peres' media adviser says that the government's stand will be determined at one of its upcoming sessions.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer stresses that the Tabah question was raised in a meeting in the United States between the prime minister and a non-U.S. personality, who then conveyed the contents of the talks to Egypt.

U.S. Tabah Plan Reported

TA221221 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] A proposal to solve the Tabah question by transferring it to a "third party" — a Saudi Arabian businessman — and turning it into an international zone, under neither Israeli nor Egyptian ownership, was raised in talks between senior U.S. and Israeli representatives prior to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to the United States. According to a U.S. source, Peres raised the proposal in his talks with leaders of the U.S. Administration in the United States.

Cabinet Secretary Yosi Beilin, who attended Peres' meetings in Washington, last night denied the report that Peres raised the proposal in the United States.

It seems that U.S. officials view this proposal as a valid solution to the Tabah question, which constitutes a serious obstacle on the path to an improvement in Egyptian-Israeli ties and a resumption of the peace process in the Middle East.

Shamir Says Reagan Plan No Longer Exists

TA221253 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Oct 84 pp 1, 11

[Yehoshua Bitzur report]

[Excerpt] "U.S. President Ronald Reagan told me that, practically speaking, the plan named after him no longer exists," Yitzhaq Shamir stated last night at the meeting of the Herut Executive which convened for the first time in 5 years.

Shamir added: "By definition, the national unity government is a temporary solution. The Likud will do nothing to bring about the dissolution of this government but, by the same the token, it will not allow any deviations from the basic principles and the values it adheres to."

Foreign Ministry Denies Remark

TA221254 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's spokesman has categorically denied a story in the Israeli daily *MA'ARIV* today that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that President Reagan had told him his Middle East plan no longer exists to all practical purposes. The spokesman said Shamir never made such a statement.

Armacost, Officials View Third World Planning

TA221544 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Ilana Dayan report — live]

[Text] Israel extends aid to Third World countries in areas that people may or may not know about, first among them being a broad spectrum of services provided by Israel to developing countries, beginning with agricultural instructors down to irrigation plans for arid areas. The expertise is there, as is the readiness; the problem is money.

U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost heard from Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche and other Foreign Ministry division heads reviews of this aid and the financial resources Israel requires to maintain it. They talked about increased coordination between Israel and the United States in this area. Armacost, as well as the heads of the Asia, Africa, and Latin America divisions of the Foreign Ministry exchanged views and assessments of the political situation in Third World countries; the U.S. approach toward the latest move by President Duarte of El Salvador to hold talks with the leftist underground leaders; and the development of democracy in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and other South American countries.

As for our region, the U.S. under secretary of state held a 30-minute meeting with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and expressed the U.S. Administration's fear of increased terrorism in the area. As for the peace process, Yitzhaq Shamir said that the Camp David accords are, as far as Israel is concerned, a central factor in any future peace initiative for the region.

Michael Armacost replaced Lawrence Eagleburger approximately 5 months ago, and this is his first visit to our area. He will meet this evening with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. He will confer with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres tomorrow.

Knesset Approves MAPAM as Separate Faction

TA221223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Today the Knesset House Committee approved the MAPAM faction's resignation from the Alignment, the merger between the Yahad faction and the Alignment, and Knesset Member Yosi Sarid's joining the Citizens Rights Movement.

Deputy Ministerial Appointments Postponed

TA211140 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Oct 84 p 3

[Amnon Barzilay report]

[Excerpts] The appointment of deputy ministers in the Foreign and Defense Ministries will be postponed indefinitely, according to a decision made by Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Circles associated with Minister Shamir have reported that his decision stems from political coercion and new demands by SHAS and Morasha, which want other deputy ministerial positions, too.

Shamir's decision not to appoint Knesset Members Roni Milo and Mikha'el Deqel as deputy ministers for the time being was heard with surprise, and Herut people have interpreted this to reflect a Shamir attempt to calm things down in Herut and prevent Ministers David Levi and Ari'el Sharon from working hand-in-hand in arguing that Shamir is trying to impose his associates on the party. Circles associated with Shamir said yesterday that it turns out that at this stage it will not be possible to appoint Deqel and Milo because of the demands by SHAS and

Morasha for compensatory deputy ministerial appointments. The circles added that this means that there would be about 20 deputy ministers in the Cabinet, which is impossible to have from the public standpoint.

Knesset Committee Chairmen Appointed 22 Oct

TA220918 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0851 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The Knesset House Committee has just chosen the House committee chairmen, following the agreement reached between the chairmen of the Likud and Alignment factions, Knesset Members [MK's] Milo and Edri, on the question of the chairmanship of the Economics Committee.

The following chairmen have been chosen to head the various Knesset committees: MK Eliyahu Speiser, Alignment, Economics Committee; MK Nahman Raz, Alignment, Education Committee; MK Ora Namir, Alignment, Labor and Welfare Committee; MK Dov Shilansky, Likud, Internal Affairs Committee; MK David Liba'i, Alignment, Public Audit Committee; MK Mikha'el Reiser, Likud, House Committee; MK Eliyahu Kulas, Likud, Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee; MK Avraham Shapira, Agudat Yisra'el, Finance Committee; and MK Abba Eban, Alignment, Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

NRP, SHAS Compete for Cabinet Portfolios

TA221724 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] is demanding two Cabinet portfolios — for interior affairs and religious affairs — be assigned to its representative in the Cabinet, Yosef Burg. The NRP faction met at the Knesset building about an hour ago, and decided to submit this demand to the prime minister during their meeting tomorrow. The SHAS representatives will confer with Shim'on Peres on Thursday.

Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that the SHAS representatives are expected to meet now with the Likud leaders, and demand either the religious affairs or the interior affairs portfolio. The NRP believes that the SHAS representatives will leave the coalition, and consequently Minister Burg will ultimately become minister of the interior and of religious affairs.

SHAS Sets 1 Week Ultimatum

TA221734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpts] SHAS members have said they will wait another week to allow their demand for the religious affairs portfolio to be met. Following a meeting with the Likud leaders, the SHAS leaders said they emerged encouraged by their conversation. Ministers Sharon and Levi said that it is inconceivable that the promise will not be fulfilled, as that would mean the coalition agreement stipulating that SHAS members will receive one ministerial post as well as a deputy ministerial appointment and head an important Knesset committee would not be honored.

The National Religious Party is also demanding the religious affairs portfolio, as well as the interior affairs portfolio. Its representatives will confer with the prime minister tomorrow.

Peres Will Not Meet With South African Minister

TA221722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1345 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Israel has made it clear to South Africa that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will not be able to welcome its foreign affairs and information minister when he visits Israel in approximately 2 weeks.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that Minister Pik Botha will spend about 24 hours in Israel on his way to the FRG. The Foreign Ministry spokesman explained that the visit is described as private, and will include a pilgrimage to the holy places. Mr Botha, however, will probably confer with his counterpart, Mr Shamir, and with other personalities.

The South African Embassy in Tel Aviv has told our correspondent that the purpose of the visit is to become better acquainted with the new government in Israel, adding that Mr Botha is satisfied with his itinerary.

Egyptian Authorities Stop Ministers' Yacht

TA221111 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Oct 84 p 1

[Eytan Rabin report]

[Excerpt] The Egyptian authorities refused to allow Education and Culture Minister Yitzhaq Navon and Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi to sail their yacht near Coral Island and other places in the area, forcing their return to Tabah.

The incident, however, ended in a handshake and a festive dinner at the house of the Egyptian Consul in Elat, Hasan 'Isa. The education minister, however, vowed to check the agreements signed with Egypt pertaining to this area.

According to the Israeli-Egyptian agreement, Israeli yachts are not allowed to sail in this area unless they have permits from the Egyptian consul.

Liberian Minister Conveys Message to Peres

TA211749 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The Liberian defense minister has brought Prime Minister Shim'on Peres a message of congratulations from President Samuel Doe. The visiting minister told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that the message also deals with strengthening cooperation between Liberia and Israel.

Israeli sources have said that the sudden visit by the Liberian defense minister is not related to the political instability in Liberia over the last few months.

Syrian Strategy Toward Israel, Jordan Analyzed
TA191238 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Oct 84 p 25

[Moshe Zaq commentary: "The Syrian Key"]

[Text] During the Yom Kippur war, when King Husayn was forced to send an armored brigade to the battlefront on the Golan Heights to reinforce the Syrian Army, several Syrian missiles landed on Jordanian soil.

The Syrians did not mean to hit Jordan. They aimed the surface-to-surface missiles at Israel but some of them hit Jordanian targets.

This week, the Syrian president did not fire any missiles at Israel. He flew to Moscow with the aim of hurting Israel, but once again he might hurt Jordan indirectly. There were various purposes behind Hafiz al-Asad's trip to Moscow — first and foremost, to strike a strategic balance with Israel. He could not fail to interpret the increasing U.S. aid to Israel as a sign that strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States is growing and therefore, for the sake of balance, he needed strategic cooperation with the other superpower, the Soviet Union. On a previous occasion, when he signed the friendship pact with the Soviet Union, he failed to obtain an explicit and unqualified Soviet commitment for military intervention in the event he got embroiled in a war with Israel, but he wants such a commitment now.

The Syrian assessment remains that Israel will not attack Damascus, despite the fact that the IDF is stationed only 25 km from the Syrian capital. That is why Syria is in no rush to reach an arrangement, even if it is only an indirect one, with Israel over Lebanon; Syria is not afraid of Israeli military pressure on Damascus. The Syrian officers are enjoying their stay in Lebanon very much because it gives them ample opportunity to make a fast buck and to purchase products and goods which are not available in Syria. Nevertheless, Al-Asad is afraid. If and when he has to take military action against Jordan, the IDF's presence opposite Damascus might pose a threat. That is why he needs third-party insurance for a Syrian military adventure in Jordan.

In practice, the Syrian president is aiming his arrows at Israel, which was the subject of denunciation in all the communiques issued in Moscow. Indirectly, however, they are aimed at Jordan, in order to bring it to a state where it cannot break off its dependence on Syria. Al-Asad's strategic plans are based on the premise of removing "the Israeli threat" from Damascus. He will then have free rein to proceed against Amman.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger had not planned to visit Amman but decided in favor of it following Husni Mubarak's suggestion and after learning about Hafiz al-Asad's departure for Moscow. Although it was not said explicitly, this visit was a signal to the Syrians that despite the "family dispute" between Husayn and the Reagan administration, the United States will not abandon Jordan and will rush to its help in case of danger.

However, if the U.S. signal entails misunderstandings between Israel and the United States on the sale of sophisticated weapons to Jordan, it will not deter Damascus because Al-Asad is more deterred by the Israeli presence opposite Damascus than by sophisticated weapons.

Caspar Weinberger could infer as much from his previous visit to Israel on 1 September 1982. This was a very eventful day in Israel's foreign relations. The evacuation of the Syrian Army and the PLO terrorists from Beirut ended that same day. Syria was ready to go ahead with negotiations on a total evacuation of Lebanon. However, instead of winding up the Lebanese affair, somebody diverted the U.S. President from the path of negotiations with Syria and promoted the illusion that a defeated PLO would be prepared to empower Husayn to conduct negotiations with the United States on a solution of the Palestinian problem. This is not how Syria regarded the U.S. move. Syria saw the move to include Husayn and 'Arafat in the Camp David process as a U.S. attempt to isolate it in the Arab arena. Its "nyet" to go ahead with negotiations with the United States eventually turned the Israeli-U.S. diplomatic success into failure.

Syria turned the tables on the night of the "Reagan plan" when even Weinberger, who was visiting in Israel, refused to intervene and hold back the President's broadcast. That night, the night of the plan, Bashir al-Jumayyil still called on Menahem Begin. However, 2 weeks later, Syrian agents eliminated Bashir, thus beginning the erosion which has led to the present situation where Syria is posing the conditions for an arrangement in Lebanon, as opposed to the situation before 1 September 1982, when the United States had been the one holding the cards. In the run after a "fata morgana" — obtaining 'Arafat's agreement — a propitious time for a dialogue with Syria was missed.

Even now, there is mounting fear that the opportunity that existed a few weeks ago for a dialogue with Damascus may have been missed. The Syrians have not said anything specific but U.S. diplomats who held talks with the Syrians — who did not reply with an outright "nyet" to the notions presented to them — formed the impression that President al-Asad would ultimately come to terms with the security arrangements in southern Lebanon which will secure the well-being of the Galilee settlements.

The Americans could also find proof of this Syrian tendency in Al-Asad's wish to signal Moscow that not everything depends on the Soviet Union and that the Syrians want to free themselves of the inconvenient situation in which the IDF is stationed opposite Damascus. The Americans also added to this the serious economic situation in Syria. All these factors provided the rational explanation for Syria's willingness to enter a dialogue. Based on this assessment, exploratory contacts began with the Americans and the United Nations about a complex and complicated arrangement in southern Lebanon stating that the agreement would be made with the Syrians, the meetings would be with Lebanese Army officers, the UN force would constitute a buffer, and the army of southern Lebanon would be the executor of the arrangement.

Since the entire edifice of the arrangement was based on the Syrian agreement, it was necessary first to lay the foundations. However, the Americans were fearful of a diplomatic failure on the eve of the presidential elections, and that is why they put off the negotiations with the Syrians until after November. Mean-

while, the Syrians have grown suspicious of U.S. intentions. They suspect that the move made by Husayn to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt was supported by the Americans and was actually designed to carry out the Reagan plan which the Syrians regard as an instrument to isolate them. These Syrian suspicions accelerated Hafiz al-Asad's trip to Moscow. After all, Al-Asad does not know what Peres learned in Washington, namely, that despite his public declarations, President Reagan does not plan to execute the plan named after him. On the other hand, Moscow would now be more generous toward Syria because it wants to close the option of negotiations on an arrangement in Lebanon for the Americans.

The Syrians exploited the visit of the U.S. assistant secretary of state very well in order to obtain more sophisticated weapons and more binding military commitments from the Soviets for a combined Soviet-Syrian move aimed at emphasizing that no arrangement would be attainable in the region without the initial consent of both the Soviet Union and Syria.

Konstantin Chernenko, the ailing and exhausted Soviet leader, does not really bother to meet foreign visitors but he did not forego the honor of meeting the North Yemeni leader, Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani. He signed a 20-year friendship and cooperation pact with him. North Yemen had been the most pro-Western country of the two Yemens but this month it also joined the Soviet alignment in the Middle East. The countries near the southern part of the Red Sea noticed that during the mining crisis, the sea was divided between the Western mine sweepers in the north and the Soviet ones in the south. Justified or unjustified, this signaled the separate spheres of influence to them. This was then noticed by Kuwait, which purchases weapons from the Soviet Union, and has now been noticed by North Yemen.

This is not the only reason Chernenko received the presidents of Syria and North Yemen and signed pacts with them. The reason lies in the concentrated Soviet effort to obtain U.S. recognition of the Soviet Union as a partner with equal rights in the Middle East. This is also the reason why Gromyko tried to convince Yitzhaq Shamir that Israel should agree to an international conference to settle the Israeli-Arab conflict. The Soviet foreign minister even used the argument that if Israel agreed to such a conference the Americans would also follow suit.

This is also the reason the Soviets will try to foil any local arrangement in the Middle East in which they have no part or which is worked out only by the Americans.

Hence, the $64,000-question is whether in the wake of the agreement he signed in Moscow Al-Asad will want or be able to go ahead with his exploratory contacts with the United States about an arrangement in Lebanon, or whether the new Syrian-Soviet coordination has tied his hands to the point where he will not even be able to agree to a limited arrangement there.

In the vote at the UN Security Council about extending UNIFIL's mandate, the Soviet Union abstained despite the fact that Syria voted for it. However, this should not be construed as a sign that the Soviets will support a comprehensive arrangement if this is mediated only by the Americans.

This then is the background against which the government meeting next week will have to analyze the various options for pulling the IDF out of Lebanon.

For some reason, the prime minister thought that if he stated that Syria should not be allowed to be the key to a decision about the date of the IDF's withdrawal, everybody would understand that he had other options in mind. However, Damascus interpreted this to mean that Israel means an unconditional withdrawal, in exchange for which Syria would not have to agree to security arrangements on the northern border. It was necessary to correct this wrong impression and convey a message to Husayn through Caspar Weinberger that Israel is not talking about an immediate and unconditional withdrawal. Amman is worried that an IDF pullout from Al-Biqa' would increase Syria's freedom of action against Jordan and this concern might drive Husayn to Moscow, not just to obtain the sophisticated weapons he has been "threatening" the United States he would purchase but mainly to receive Soviet guarantees.

Such a turnabout in Amman, and not just the presence in Al-Biqa', entails serious risks for Israel.

Results of Al-Asad's Moscow Visit Analyzed

TA211424 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 21 Oct 84 p 2

[Third editorial: "Al-Asad Did Not Return From Moscow Empty-Handed"]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad did not return from Moscow empty-handed, despite reports on disagreements between him and the Kremlin leaders. The Soviet Union promised to speed up consignments of modern arms to strengthen its Army, and also repeated its commitment to stand by Syria in times of crisis. Thus, one should not minimize the results of the visit, at least inasmuch as it has implications for Israel.

The Syrian Army is steadily increasing its manpower and equipment, constituting a direct danger to Israel, particularly now that it has managed to achieve a numerical superiority of weapons and divisions at its disposal. It is true that certain differences of opinion did emerge between Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad regarding the Soviet Union's policy toward Jordan, the resumption of diplomatic relations between Amman and Cairo, and Moscow's unflinching support of Iraq in its war against Iran. Also, while Al-Asad demanded that the Soviets refrain from extending aid to Jordan and Iraq, the Kremlin leaders denied his requests, and the day Al-Asad departed Moscow they welcomed very warmly the Iraqi foreign minister who arrived to sign a new arms deal with the Soviets. Furthermore, Moscow is planning a royal welcome for the Jordanian monarch, who is expected to arrive in the Soviet capital in the very near future. But, once again, one cannot infer from this that the Soviet Union has decided to forsake Syria. The Soviets abide by the rule of having their cake and eating it, too.

Moreover, Moscow's decision to help Iraq, and its courtship of King Husayn, are all intended to prevent the United States from spreading its strategic wings over those countries. Hence, even if

ostensibly the line Moscow has adopted indicates a moderation of sorts in its Middle East policy, one should be very cautious in drawing any conclusions and saying this indeed is the Kremlin leaders' intentions. Even if the Soviet Union did actually moderate its policy, one should not infer from this that it plans to adopt a more moderate policy than that embraced by the Arab rejectionist countries. This, too, could have been gleaned from the harsh anti-Israel and anti-U.S. stance contained in the joint Soviet-Syrian communique issued at the close of the Syrian president's visit to Moscow.

If there were really arguments between Al-Asad and Chernenko, they were not serious enough to decrease Soviet influence over Syria or the danger of the increased arming of the Syrian Army by the Soviet Union. We ought to remember this very well rather than play around with reports about a rift that allegedly took place between Moscow and Damascus.

Territories Coordinator on Current Issues

TA201522 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Interview with Coordinator of Activities in the Territories Brigadier General Shmu'el Goren by Yosi 'Abadi; live in the studio]

[Text] ['Abadi] A lot has been said recently about the quality of life — a phrase coined by the Americans — in the context of Judaea and Samaria. Are the improvements we are now initiating meant to appease the Americans for political reasons?

[Goren] First, a correction is called for here: The phrase quality of life was not coined by the Americans. This may be an English term, but basically all our activities in the field may be classified as dealing with the quality of life. To say that we have initiatied them only recently is definitely not true.

['Abadi] Perhaps they are being emphasized more recently.

[Goren] There may be more talk about them now but many of these activities took place in the past. Although it is true that there is more talk about them now than in the past, basically such activities began a long time ago. More stress has been laid on them recently.

['Abadi] Is this being stressed because of the Americans?

[Goren] Not necessarily just because of the Americans but also because of the current requirements in the field.

['Abadi] What is quality of life? Which of our activities are being emphasized?

[Goren] Let me give you some examples: The sewage project in Qalqilyah and its environs which was started in 1981 and was then worth millions of shekels will be commissioned next week; I have mentioned a hospital in Gaza. There are 28 births every day in this hospital at present. Incidentally, 80 percent of those women giving birth do so in a hospital. Until a few years ago, none of them went to a hospital.

['Abadi] They gave birth at home?

[Goren] They gave birth at home. The percent of those giving birth at home today is very small. I can also give you some examples in the field of education. We now have over 15,000 students in various universities and colleges. It should be noted that until a few years ago, until 1967, there was not even one college or university. The current figures are definitely significant.

Recently, we have been trying to add several other things. For example, we are examining — and this may be disclosed here for the first time — a proposal for a court of appeals for sentences issued by military courts. We have not found a precedent for this in the history of military governments. I am not promising that we will carry this out but, in any event, we are examining such a possibility. If conditions are appropriate, we will set this up.

We currently allow all kinds of delegations to go to Arab countries to look for and propose various projects dealing with the quality of life. There has been a lot of talk about a bank. We certainly intend to allow the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria to open a bank. The plan is for the bank to serve the inhabitants and belong to them; the bank will be owned by them. There are plenty of examples.

['Abadi] Have you had any response from the inhabitants?

[Goren] Definitely; we have had very positive responses to the proposed bank and the thawing of funds. At present, we allow them to bring in $5,000 whereas 2 years ago they were allowed to bring in only $2,000. Incidentally, we are examining other proposals in this sphere in order to ease conditions for the inhabitants. As I said before, people are more willing now to establish a dialogue with us than in the past. At present, there are no mayors refusing to cooperate with us. I am happy to point out that the mayor of Tulkarm who had been boycotting the Civilian Administration — he did not do us any favor, he did a favor to the inhabitants of Tulkarm — did a very big thing when he lifted the boycott, and this is a significant achievement.

['Abadi] This may not be a representative example, but the Simchas Torah celebrations in Hebron which took place in the middle of the central square and not in the backyard of a synagogue disrupted normal life in the city. Does this show consideration for the quality of life of the local inhabitants?

[Goren] I would not like to deal with the political aspect of Jewish settlement in Hebron. What I can say is that the Civilian Administraiton took pains not to cause any damage or disruptions to the Arab inhabitants as a result of the celebrations. We did this by explaining the situation and by preventing the erection of podiums in the middle of the city or in places where they would have disrupted the well-being of the inhabitants. I must point out that the celebrations proceeded uneventfully and that there were no problems whatsoever with the Arab inhabitants.

['Abadi] Another aspect in the recently-mentioned improvement of the quality of life is the replacement of Israeli-appointed mayors in four towns in Judaea and Samaria. How imminent is such a move?

[Goren] I do not know why the appointment of mayors is tied in with the quality of life. What I can say is that at least the performance of some municipalities at present differs from their performance in the past as far as quality of life is concerned.

['Abadi] If that is the case, perhaps it would be beneficial not to replace the appointed mayors.

[Goren] If we were really to analyze the situation, I have no doubt that at least some of the current mayors do a better job than the Arab mayors in terms of enhancing the quality of life.

However, we are not interested in retaining the appointed Jewish or Israeli mayors in their place. Our intention is to replace them — we have said as much on various occasions — when the two conditions we mentioned are met: that they should be capable and qualified to do the job and that they should not engage in hostile activities against Israel. When these conditions are met, we will replace the appointed mayors.

['Abadi] Should we infer from the difficulties involved in finding such candidates that there is no chance of finding if not pro-Israeli, at least not anti-Israeli leadership in Judaea and Samaria?

[Goren] There certainly is a chance and this chance has been increasing recently. We hope this will come true soon; we are not in a hurry. When our conditions are met we will replace them.

['Abadi] Are there any new facts about the creation of a pro-Israeli leadership?

[Goren] I do not know whether there will be a pro-Israeli leadership but we are looking for moderate elements. They exist and especially recently their number has been increasing. They also include candidates for the post of mayors. We check every case on its own merits. I very much hope that when the conditions I mentioned earlier are met, we will replace the appointed mayors.

['Abadi] It seems that most of the activities regarding the local population center on preventing the National Guidance Committee from reorganizing. We have not yet reached the stage of creating a sympathetic leadership. Isn't that so?

[Goren] In the past, the National Guidance Committee was an inter-regional body that was significantly hostile. It created a lot of ferment and hostility and it was later disbanded. We have said before and we repeat that we will not allow hostile, inter-regional bodies to organize. We have taken some measures, including the recent warnings issued to several members who tried or are trying to reestablish this body. We will not allow this body to reorganize.

['Abadi] Is there a connection between our attempt to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants in Judaea and Samaria and a certain radicalization, as indicated in the attempt of the National Guidance Committee to reorganize and a certain increase in the number of terrorist attacks?

[Goren] No, I do not think there is any connection. These are two parallel issues which need not be connected. As I said before, we have recently increased our activities concerning the quality of life but we have also taken action in the sphere of terrorist activities; I do not see any connection between the two.

['Abadi] How does the rise in the acts of terrorism — several explosive charges have been uncovered recently — affect the atmosphere in Judaea and Samaria? I think new devices have been used recently which may have been tried in Lebanon, such as explosives planted on the side of the road.

[Goren] The recent incidents do not differ from those in the past, definitely not. Those who believe that explosive charges are being used as a result of the experience acquired in Lebanon are wrong. Explosive charges are operated by remote control, either by radio or wires, in Lebanon. There have been no such incidents in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza for many years. This does not mean that it cannot happen. What I am saying is that there have been no so-called Lebanese explosive charges in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. It is true that there were several incidents lately. It is enough that stones are being thrown and a woman is hurt. This alone is a serious incident. As has been stated in the past, and we repeat it now, under no circumstances will we allow such processes to continue. We cannot promise to end these kinds of activities absolutely, but we are certainly making every possible effort to reduce them to a minimum. The Central and Southern Commands and all the other branches dealing with this issue are fighting this phenomenon. I hope that it will gradually be curbed.

ALGERIA

Reportage on Visit of GDR Trade Official

Beil Arrives in Algiers

LD221514 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Mr Gerhard Beil, first deputy minister, state secretary for foreign trade, and special GDR envoy, arrived in Algiers today. He was welcomed at the airport by Brother Mohamed Aberkane, secretary of state for foreign trade and director of the Socialist Countries Section at the Foreign Ministry; and the GDR ambassador in Algiers. During his stay in Algeria, the German envoy will hold a series of talks with senior Algerian officials concerning various aspects of economic cooperation and ways of strengthening it between the two countries. This visit which comes only a few months after the Algiers meeting of the joint commission will permit the discussion of a number of issues of common interest.

Bendjedid Receives GDR Minister

LD222229 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpt] President of the Republic and FLN Secretary General Brother Chadli Bendjedid has received Gerhard Beil, minister of state for Foreign Trade and special envoy of the GDR president, who delivered a message from President Erich Honecker to the brother president. The meeting was attended by Brothers Mohamed Aberkane, deputy minister in charge of foreign trade, and 'Abd al-Qadir Binqasi, head of the International Affairs and Cooperation Department at the Presidency, and the GDR ambassador to Algeria.

President Bendjedid Receives YAR Envoy

LD222235 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] President of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party Chadli Bendjedid received this morning Brother Mujahid Yahya, YAR first deputy prime minister and special envoy of the YAR president, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The meeting was attended by Brother Mohamed Ben Ahmed 'Abd al-Qadir Binqasi, head of the International Affairs and Cooperation Section at the Presidency, and also by the YAR ambassador to Algeria.

LIBYA

Reportage on Visit of Lebanon's President al-Jumayyil

Al-Jumayyil Arrives in Tripoli

LD221907 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1835 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Oct (JANA) — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud was at the head of those who welcomed him. Also taking part in the welcome were members of the General People's Committee and the secretary and members of the General People's Committee for Tripoli Municipality and the Lebanese ambassador to the Jamahiriyah and a number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces.

President Amin al-Jumayyil made a statement to JANA in which he lauded the cordial relations between the Jamahiriyah and Lebanon. He said: When we visit Libya, our second homeland, we (?strengthen) real cordial and fraternal relations between Lebanon and Libya.

He added that this visit affirms the links between Lebanon and Libya — links of real strength and sincere cooperation for the sake of our joint issues, particularly at this crucial stage of the history of our Arab struggle, which requires more joint efforts and work in the interests of Lebanon, Libya, and all Arab brothers.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Lebanese President

LD221911 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1832 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Oct (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution this evening received Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. The meeting was attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud.

Lebanese President Leaves Tripoli

LD231135 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Oct (JANA) — President Amin al-Jumayyil of the Republic of Lebanon, left Tripoli this morning following a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salim Ahmad Jallud headed those who saw him off at Tripoli International Airport.

YAR Deputy Prime Minister Departs Tripoli

LD221700 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Muharram, 22 Oct — JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Lt Colonel Mujahid Abu Shuwarib, deputy prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic left Tripoli before midday today after paying a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

JANA Claims Plane Almost Hit by U.S. Rocket

LD221945 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Oct (JANA) — A plane belonging to Libyan Arab Airlines this evening was exposed to an abortive attack while landing at Athens International Airport, in Greece. It was the target of a rocket coming from the direction of a U.S. military air base. The captain of the plane said that he saw the rocket when it was very close to the plane. However, he managed to evade it and land his plane safely.

The captain of the plane gave a detailed report on the attempt to the airport control tower at Athens Airport. In it he explained the circumstances connected with this attempt from the moment of discovering it to the time of reporting it, noting that during the attempted attack, the plane was at an altitude of 250 meters and about 6 km to the left of runway 15.

Kurdish Party Statement on Turkish Operations

LD192011 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party has urged the United Nations and peoples of the world to take steps to stop the military operations carried out by the Turkish Armed Forces, in collusion with Saddam Husayn's regime, against the Kurds in northern Iraq. In a statement published yesterday evening in Paris, the party urged countries of the world and international organizations to take steps to effect an immediate withdrawal of Turkish forces and stop Turkey's interference in the Iraqi Kurds' problem. It is worth noting that Saddam Husayn's regime in Baghdad has allowed the Turkish Army to enter Iraqi territories along the border between the two countries in the last 2 days to pursue Kurds.

JANA: Opposition Forces Kill 8 Sudanese Soldiers

LD211032 Tripoli JANA in English 0930 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Nairobi, Muharram 26, October 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Sudanese National Liberation Army announced that it attacked a military garrison for the stooge Numayri forces in the Junea region, in southern Sudan, before dawn yesterday. The Sudanese National Liberation Army radio station revealed in a report that the attack resulted in the death of eight Sudanese soldiers, and the destruction of a Buffalo-type plane.

MOROCCO

King Hassan II Addresses Air Force Graduates

LD221412 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Marrakech, Oct 22. (MAP) — "We are a state which knows how to estimate everything at its just value. Indeed, we know that science is the best means and the most direct way to acquire defensive strength likely to safeguard the spiritual and material sacred values and to ensure to them invulnerability through the Koran and the Sunna (prophet's deeds and sayings), and through knowledge and human contribution", stated King Hassan II of Morocco.

Speaking here Saturday at a ceremony marking the graduation of the 13th group from the Royal Air Force, King Hassan II added that, "we notice these values everyday in our Royal Armed Forces, whether they are on the front making sacrifices or at home when they carry on daily their training".

"In both situations", he said, "we see them moved by faith, by quietude and aware of their present, drawing their inspiration from the past, confident in the education of their future". The monarch paid homage to those who died in the battle field for the defense of the country's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and dignity, and prayed God to have mercy on their soul.

Addressing the graduates, King Hassan II said: "We want you to be in harmony with all aviators in the world who are renowned by their knowledge and their high technological level."

For this reason, he went on, we shall not give you the name of falcons or eagles. We shall call you, you and your colleagues from the other armies, "the scientists".

The ceremony was attended by the Cabinet members headed by Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani, the Libyan delegation led by 'Ali al-Turayki, the diplomatic corps accredited to Rabat, and several other Moroccan and foreign personalities".

SUDAN

Terrorist Network Trial Scheduled To Begin

JN201521 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Oct (SUNA) — The members of the terrorist network led by Muhammad Jibril Kafi and others will appear before Criminal Court 10 in Khartoum on 1 November. This network had intended to assassinate President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and First Vice President Major General 'Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib and to carry out bombing operations in a number of vital and strategic sites. Under Articles 296, 97, 84, and 197 of the Penal Code of 1983, members of the terrorist network will be charged with attempting to undermine the Constitution, instigating war against the state, treason, and espionage. The state security apparatus arrested them in July.

Members of the terrorist network confessed that they were trained in acts of assassination and sabotage and were provided with weapons and explosives in Libya, under the supervision of Al-Qadhdhafi's intelligence service and terrorist organs.

Another group comprising six people, namely: (Hayya Baram Sa'd), (Snuba) Fadl Hasan, Musa Ahmad 'Ali, ('Ajil Jum'ah Jawadatallah), Hasaballah Fadl Hasan, and Muhammad Adam Daynaq assisted the terrorist group in hiding and logistical operations.

Members of the terrorist group will be tried in public. The plastic explosives, the highly explosive TNT sticks, the blasting devices, the forged pistols with silencers, and the highly explosive granite hand grenades seized with them will be displayed before the court.

It is noteworthy that Muhammad Sir al-Khatm Majid, the Supreme Court judge, will preside.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Reports to Bourguiba on Libyan Visit

LD221531 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba received this morning at the Presidential Palace in Carthage, Minister of Foreign Affairs Beji Caid Essebsi, in the presence of the president's special adviser, Habib Bourguiba, Jr.

Beji Caid Essebsi made the following statement: Following my return from the Libyan Jamahiriyah, I submitted a report to his excellency the president on details of the talks I held with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the following officials in the Jamahiriyah: Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, Secretary General of General People's Congress Muhammad al-Zarruq Rajab, Secretary of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, and Secretary of the People's Committee of Justice Miftah Ku'aybah. The talks focused on existing cooperation between the two countries and prospects for its development prior to the convening of the Higher Tunisian-Libyan Joint Committee. I conveyed to his excellency the president a message of respect and appreciation from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and the greetings of his struggling sons of the Malitah Destourian branch, whose conference I supervised yesterday, and their attachment to him and commitment to the principles of the Destourian Socialist party.

Reportage of Prime Minister's Visit to PRC

For PRC media coverage of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali's visit to the People's Republic of China, including his meetings with Premier Zhao Ziyang and President Li Xiannian, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 17 October China *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

WESTERN SAHARA

Algiers Interviews Official on 'Magreb Offensive'

LD221732 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Despite the measures put into effect by Morocco in the Western Sahara, and despite the means it uses, the fight of the Saharan people continues. Proof of this is the Great Maghreb offensive, launched at the beginning of the month by Saharan fighters against Moroccan fortifications. Why such an offensive, and what are its results? These questions were put by [name indistinct] to Mr Mohamed Ould Salek, member of the Politburo and official in charge of external relations for the Polisario:

[Begin Recording] [Salek] First of all, why the Great Maghreb offensive? Well, it is obvious that Morocco is following an expansionist policy with regard not only to the Saharan people, but to all the people of the Maghreb in the northwest area of the African Continent. Thus, the offensive is named "Great Maghreb", because the Great Maghreb is facing a regime which makes expansionism the backbone of its foreign policy, of its regional policy. We want this offensive to be called "Great Maghreb," because it is not only led by the Saharan people to liberate their country, for [words indistinct] and to counter Moroccan expansionism, but also as an expression of all the people of the Arab Maghreb against the expansionism, which is not expansionism of the Moroccan people, but comes entirely from the palace. The war against our people is known in Morocco as the war of the royal palace. Furthermore, the big demonstrations — I would even say the riots — of last January, were not riots against the price of commodities, as certain Moroccan and foreign papers said, they were riots calling into question the regime itself, and which in the final analysis, demanded the end of the occupation and aggression against the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.

[Reporter] And now what about the results?

[Salek] The result of this offensive can be described as follows: First, the Saharan Army has shown the vulnerability of the policy of walls. The walls put up around the occupied areas of our country are vulnerable, and the Saharan people have shown their ability to destroy them. It is a message. It is a message the Saharan people send to the king of Morocco, and those who, behind King Hassan II, want to perpetuate the aggression against our country. We want to show that despite the means put at the disposal of the king of Morocco by imperialist countries, by the United States, by France, who deliver a panoply of weapons to King Hassan II, from scatter bombs to Jaguars, Mirages, and the means of detection, sophisticated radar devices; despite the considerable size of the Moroccan Army, which has risen from 160,000 to 200,000 now, more than 100,000 soldiers [as heard]; we want to show that we are giving Hassan II two choices, two alternatives. The first is to make peace, the possibility we prefer. We have always worked at an international level, at an African level, for peace between the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and the Kingdom of Morocco, on the basis, as God knows, of the resolutions of the United Nations and the OAU. Morocco has chosen the second alternative, that of war. Well, we shall force King Hassan II to pay a much higher price each time. It is within this framework that the king was able to build the walls he wants, setting the number of soldiers who die. [end recording]

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Tours Soviet-Run Agricultural Institute

EA211125 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, PMAC chairman and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, today toured the Agricultural Research Institute in Ambo town, in the province of Jibat Na Mecha, which is run by comrades from the Soviet Union. On arrival our comrade revolutionary leader was given a warm welcome by Comrade Debela Dinsa, WPC Central Committee member and first secretary of the Shewa Kifle Hager Region WPE Committee; Comrade Abebe Belaineh, WPE Central Committee member and principal administrator of Shewa Kifle Hager Region; Comrade Dr (Asimov), director of the institute; and other representatives of mass and governmental organizations of the province and institute workers.

In the briefing given to our comrade revolutionary leader at the institute on its general aims and functions, the director explained that the institute had been established through cooperation between the two countries, and that its aim was to conduct scientific research on farm produce to ensure guaranteed care for crops, thereby giving substantial support to farmers. He added that in this respect, the institute, using Soviet and Ethiopian experts, was currently conducting scientific crop research on basic and fatal crop diseases and was also getting a high degree of results from research into the sources [of disease] being carried out on the spot and in the laboratory, and that it was teaching these results to farmers.

The director noted that the institute had been able to expand and speed its research work with the encouragement of the revolutionary government and was particularly encouraged by the presence, support, and directives of comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam. He told our comrade revolutionary leader that the institute was ready to make a big contribution toward realizing the development plan.

In his speech to officials of the institute, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam pointed out that as our country was a land of peasants and suitable for agriculture, as has been stated in our 10-year guideline plan, high and quantitative results were expected of the agricultural sector of the economy. He added that beyond our long-term and basic plans, the revolutionary government and the broad masses of Ethiopia were very concerned with the drought situation currently wreaking havoc on people and animals in our continent, especially in our country.

He said that the government had now reached the stage where it was buying food and crops from abroad, within its ability, and was awaiting aid from outside to overcome this grave problem. He further said that to deal with the worsening drought and find an immediate and lasting solution, in conjunction with the emergency aid, the agricultural research institutions in our country had to coordinate their work or conduct the relevant studies and research into quick-growing crops which would be widely harvested.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam visited the agricultural research and laboratory sections and development areas, where he was briefed by experts and issued directives. Present during the visit were Comrade Adis Tedla, member of the Politburo of the WPE Central Committee and deputy chairman of the National Central Planning committee; Comrade Fasika Sidelil, alternate member of the Politburo of the WPE Central Committee and secretary; and Comrade Tekola Dejene, WPE Central Committee member and minister of agriculture.

Tigre Liberation Front on Ethiopian Battle Statistics

EA231123 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali 0930 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] A statement released by the Tigre Liberation Front [TPLF], says that the intrepid forces of the front inflicted heavy casulaties on the black Abyssinian colonialist forces when the front fighters engaged the enemy troops on 19 October.

The battle, which raged for 3 hours, saw the fronts fighters liberate the historic town of (Darison) in (Nagefayo) in Welo. The Abyssinians lost 250 soldiers, while 120 others were wounded in the fighting.

Relief Workers Captured

EA231130 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali 0930 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Summary] Ten Foreigners were captured in Lalibela and are in the hands of Tigre Liberation Front fighters. Some of the captured foreigners are British and Americans. They were relief agency workers.

Briefs

Ivory Coast Envoy Dies — Pierre Diginny, the Ivorian Ambassador to Ethiopia, died at his residence in Addis Ababa last Saturday (20 October) after a short illness. [Summary] [*Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 84 LD*]

KENYA

Minister Criticizes U.S. Support for RSA

EA222129 Nairobi KNA in English 1614 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Nairobi, 22 Oct (KNA) — The minister for transport and communications, Mr Peter Habenga Okondo, has expressed Kenya's concern over the continued U.S. support for the racist South African regime and he dismissed U.S. fears that if South Africa was liberated it would be hostile towards the U.S. Mr Okondo was opening the 4-day third African regional civil aviation conference of the International Transport Workers Federation [ITF] in Nairobi today.

Saying the future of South Africa depended largely on the U.S. stand, he explained that Europe's support of the suppressive regime would be eradicated if the U.S. withdrew its influence on

South Africa. He said most other African countries had modernized their labour laws in conformity with their independent country's requirements. He regretted that South Africa had preferred to suppress black South African labour rights.

SOMALIA

Siad Barre 21 October Anniversary Address

EA211122 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Yesterday, following a meeting of the Political Committee of the SRSP Central Committee, SRSP Secretary General and Somali Democratic Republic President Challe Muhammad Siad Barre granted amnesty to about 4,000 prisoners in various jails around the country for various crimes. The amnesty for the prisoners is to mark the 15th anniversary celebrations of the 21 October Revolution.

Somali Democratic Republic President Challe Muhammad Siad Barre, speaking to the nation through the national media on the occasion of the 15th anniversary celebrations of the October Revolution, called on businessmen and wealthy Somalis to grow out of their businesseswhich are confined to building houses and exporting livestock, and turn to meaningful and true production in industries, agriculture, animal production, and modern fisheries. He added that the party and government are prepared to (?guide, finance), and encourage where necessary.

Challe Siad said that in the past 15 years, the Somali nation has achieved great success in the economic, political, social, and cultural sectors, though during this period we were confronted with difficult times and situations. The president said that the problems confronting the nation during this period included prolonged drought, floods, and torrential rains; assisting the liberation movement in the achievement of its goals; caring for numerous refugees; the continued unprovoked Abyssian aggression on the Somali Democratic Republic; and international economic instability that has crippled the economic growth of developing countries.

Somali Democratic Republic President Challe Muhammad Siad Barre said that although most of these problems have been solved and victories scored, their (?effect) and burden have reflected on the economic, political, social, defense, and security of the state.

To overcome the current economic instability, the Somali Democratic Republic has freed its commercial sector, given farmers the independence to sell as they wish whatever they produce, adjusted the exchange rate of the Somali shilling, strengthened production, increased exports, encouraged the private commercial sector, and has invited foreign investment. Challe Siad added that on the revitalization of the Somali Democratic Republic economy, the Somali Democratic Republic has the support of friendly nations and international organizations like the IMF. The Socialist Democratic Republic and those countries and organizations are in complete agreement on Somalia's economic revitalization program. Challe Siad added that although most of the points under discussion between the Somali Democratic Republic and the friendly countries have been agreed upon, there are some points where talks still continue, where we have different views. This has been brought about because they are looking at those points from the economic and financial side while the Somali Democratic Republic is looking at points from all sides including economic, finance, political, and social aspects.

Somali Democratic Republic President Challe Siad added: We hope that the IMF will understand us and how the effects of some these aspects are affecting Somalia's political and social stability.

Challe Muhammad Siad Barre said that altough we were beset by many problems in the implementation of the development plans, the input of resources, human effort, and the correct leadership of the October Revolution had enabled the country's economy to grow at the overall rate of 6.5 percent a year. Somalia's own resources had during the past 15 years facilitated increases in its annual budget from 4 billion shillings in 1970 to 10 billion last year, representing an overall growth rate of 150 percent.

Referring to the revolution's achievements in the social services sector, the president said that much had been achieved in education, health, sports, justice and the judiciary, and internal peace and stability of the country.

The president said that our primary school population had increased by 345 percent. At the secondary level, the increase was 1,482 percent, while the numbers undergoing technical education increased by 1,661 pecent. The president added that the national university comprising 145 faculties, had a student population of over 3,000.

In his speech, SRSP Secretary General Challe Muhammad Siad Barre referred to what had been achieved in strengthening security, defense, and social life in general. He also dwelt on the Somali Government's foreign policy, saying today the world is shaken by political instability and uncertainty and that armed confrontation has increased. The arms race has reached a dangerous level and violations of international laws and regulations are also increasing. All of these factors combined, threaten world peace and stability and could trigger disastrous wars, said the Somali president. Areas dominated by such political tensions which could unleash disaster include the Horn of Africa, Lebanon, the Gulf, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Latin America, and others, said Challe Siad. The head of state made it clear that in the view of the Somali Democratic Republic, the solutions to the issues lay in recognizing the right to self-determination of the people concerned in accordance with the UN Charter, which codifies the maintenance of peace and stability in the world and lays down that conflicts should be resolved peacefully through negotiations. He said that a balanced economic order between the developed and the developing countries should be created and that the nuclear arms race should stop.

Challe Siad further said that the basic principles of Somali foreign policy comprised the promotion, elevation, and preservation of the dignity of the Somali people; nonalignment; strengthening international relations; respecting and upholding noninterference in internal affairs and coexistence; and fighting colonialism, racism, and those who support them.

Challe Siad said that the clear and open policy being pursued by the Somali Democratic Republic Government had won it many friends in the world and was the basis of Somalia's treaties of cooperation and collaboration with many countries. He paid special tribute to cooperation based on the good neighborliness, peace, and collaboration which Somalia enjoys with her neighbors, except the Abyssinians.

On the old problem of the Horn of Africa, which has lately taken up international dimensions with the intervention of foreign powers, Challe Siad said: Today many nations and peoples have realized the facts and causes of that problem.

He again reminded the black Abyssinian colonialists that no one can halt the tide of history and that no amounts of weaponry, military treaties, or the calling in of foreign troops can subdue people determined to obtain their freedom. We would like to advise the Abyssinians to open their minds to the realization that the colonial era has long been over and that granting freedom to peoples struggling for their rights and subsequently enjoying good neighborliness and cooperation with them is in the interests of both parties.

Referring to the current problems between Somalia and Abyssinia, the head of state reminded the Abyssinians that repeated raids and constant threats will not cow Somalia and that constant wars and lasting problems are not in the interests of the two countries. Therefore, while we are still on the path of searching for peace, we once again call on the Abyssinian regime to withdraw its forces from the two regions of Somali Democratic Republic territory and, thereafter, discuss with open minds the gigantic problem between us, said Challe Siad.

SRSP Secretary General and Somali President Challe Muhammad Siad Barre extended greetings and best wishes to the Somali people on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the 21 October Revolution. He expressed similar sentiments to friendly nations and international organizations, paying special tribute to those who had helped Somalia during the past 15 years of its revolution in the tasks of nation-building and development. He cautioned the Somali people against tribalism, urging them to be on the alert and constantly to confront it and other social ills capable of obstructing national and social development.

Radio Halgan: Two Leaders Killed by Regime
EA192358 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Hired agents of the Mogadishu regime have brutally murdered leaders of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces. The Mogadishu regime resolved to take this action after the DFSS succeeded against its enemy, the dictatorial regime of Mogadishu. Since 1978 the Somali people have continued to wage an armed struggle against the regime. The enemy brutally murdered the leaders in an attempt to prolong its fascist regime in Somalia.

Two nights ago, an act of brutal murder against leaders of the DFSS took place, when at 0130 on 17 October, hired stooges of the regime brutally murdered senior members of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces at a DFSS base. Those who died on the spot, may their souls rest in peace, are: ('Abd al-Rahman Aideed Ahmad), a member of the Executive Committee of the DFSS Central Committee and head of the DFSS Planning Division; and fighter (Ikar Haji Muhammad Husayn), DFSS Central Committee member. Fighter (Abdi Muhammad Amin), a famous music composer in the Somali community, was also wounded.

These people, senior DFSS officials brutally killed by the enemy at one of the DFSS bases, were great fighters playing a very important role in the principle of armed struggle against the dictatorial Mogadishu regime.

The chairman of the Executive Committee of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces, Colonel (Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad), and the DFSS Central Committee send their heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the murdered fighters, whom General Barre's regime brutally murdered. They also send similar condolences to all the DFSS fighters and the general public of Somalia who are in the armed struggle against the dictatorial rule of Mogadishu.

Colonel (Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad) said that the DFSS wing recognized that the two martyrs were courageous fighters who had died for a just cause in the Somali community's armed struggle for the salvation of its nationhood.

Brutal acts of this nature against our fighters have taken place in the Republic of Djibouti, Kenya, Italy, and the Arab world, particularly in the Gulf regions over the past few years.

At the same time, the chairman of the Somali National Movement [SNM], the SNM Central Committee, and the SNM fighters send their condolences to the families, friends, and fighters of the DFSS and the Somali community engaged in the armed struggle against the Mogadishu regime on the brutal murder of fighter ('Abd al-Rahman Aideed Ahmad) and (Ikar Haji Muhammad Husayn). The SNM said that General Siad Barre was responsible for the brutal murder of the two intrepid Somali fighters.

The SNM, wing of the Somali opposition forces, recognizes that the deaths of fighters ('Abd al-Rahman Aideed Ahmad) and (Ikar Haji Muhammad Husayn) were noble deaths in the cause of the Somali nation's armed struggle against the unjust rule of General Barre.

Radio Halgan: Rebels Kill 200 Barre Troops
EA202200 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Units of the Hasan Sulayman Brigade of the Somali National Movement, SNM, wing of the Somali opposition forces, and the loyalist troops of Siad Barre were engaged in bitter fighting at the (?front) facing Hargeysa [northwest Somalia] on 17 October 1984. Reports from the Hasan Sulayman Brigade's base confirm that during the engagement the dispirited Barre regime's forces suffered heavy casualties in men and material.

The SNM fighters of the Hasan Sulayman Brigade slaughtered 200 soldiers of the forces who had not yet realized why they were fighting and at the same time wounded many soldiers and took two prisoners.

The report adds that seven APC vehicles, one vehicle mounted with a four-barrelled field gun, and other military hardware were gutted, and a very large quantity of light weapons and ammunition was captured.

The SNM fighters lost 23 martyrs and 30 others were wounded.

CHAD

French Forces Withdraw From Moussoro, Other Towns

AB231019 Paris AFP in French 0935 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 23 Oct (AFP) — French forces stationed in Moussoro (northern Chad) evacuated the town on Monday night and they should leave Biltine (eastern part of the country) on Wednesday morning, then Abeche (east) on Thursday, it was learned from an informed source in Ndjamena on Tuesday.

The spokesman for the French contingent confirmed to AFP that "the withdrawal from Moussoro took place in the night" and that by Tuesday morning there were no French soldiers in the town, situated about 280 km north of the capital. The spokesman declined to comment on the impending withdrawal from Biltine and Abeche.

Meanwhile, the withdrawal of the Manta Force continued on Tuesday morning with the departure of 150 paratroopers and about 60 vehicles for Cameroon. Departure of other French soldiers for France by air has been scheduled for the coming days, it was learned from a good source.

700 'Cocotiers Commandos' Join Government Forces

AB221930 Paris AFP in French 1719 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 22 Oct (AFP) — Seven hundred soldiers belonging to the dissident group known as "Cocotiers Commandos" [Coconut tree commandos] based in Mayo-Kebbi (southern Chad) defected to President Hissein Habre's government on Saturday, the CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY, ATP, announced today. In addition to the "Cocotiers Commandos," opponents called "Red Commandos" and "Green Commandos" have been active in Moyen-Chari and Logone Occidential regions, where they carry out acts of sabotage in southern Chad.

The "Cocotiers Commandos," also known as "Cocotiers Codos," which have just defected to the Ndjamena government, were integrated on Saturday into the Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] at an official ceremony at Bongor, the capital city of Moyen-Kebbi region, ATP added. According to ATP, the ceremony "marks an important stage in the national reconciliation process, which the government has initiated with disgruntled Chadians inside the country."

Before the "Cocotiers Codos" went over to the Ndjamena government, a "peace document" was signed last March between the national authorities and the leaders of that group of dissidents. The integration of the "Cotiers Codos" both marks the end of an unfortunate epic and the good faith of the commandos... who have decided to make peace and not war, according to the leader of the "Cocotiers Codos," Atanga Eleya Djok, quoted by ATP.

Chadian Defense Minister Captain Ndilnodji, who attended the ceremony marking the integration of the commandos into the FANT, stated: "Henceforth, there are no codos in the Mayo-Kebbi and Libya remains the enemy."

GUNT Delegation Accused of 'Antinational Attitude'

AB220957 Paris AFP in French 0846 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 21 Oct (AFP) — Chadian official radio Sunday night violently critized the attitude of the delegation of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government, GUNT, at the preparatory meeting of the reconciliation conference on Chad in Brazzaville.

The radio mainly accused GUNT of an "antinational" attitude by insisting that the Brazzaville meeting should only be held between it and representatives of the Ndjamena government, and in the presence of an OAU representative. Describing GUNT as "existing only by name," Radio Chad stated that a minority is trying "to bloc dialogue between Chadians while the Chadian people die."

The official Chadian radio, which described GUNT as a "petrodollar" group, said that Libya was trying to "torpedo" the meeting because, according to the radio, Tripoli was "unhappy" that the Congolese Government succeeded in bringing the groups together to discuss their reconciliation. The radio spoke essentially about "secret pressures" from Libya, which, as can be recalled, sent a delegation of about 10 people to the Congolese capital. "Libyans cannot sit idly whenever there is anything about reconciliation in Chad," Radio Chad charged.

According to the Chadian official radio, the government of Ndjamena is ready to negotiate with "all Chadian oppositions," but not with the "ghost-like GUNT."

CONGO

Chad Reconciliation Meeting Underway, GUNT attends

First Meeting of Delegations

AB221226 Paris AFP in French 1128 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 22 Oct (AFP) — All the delegations of Chadian experts present in Brazzaville to prepare the conference on reconciliation in Chad met for the first time on Monday morning in a working session in the Congolese capital. The delegates hope finally to tackle "fundamental problems" that have been tearing Chad apart for many years, and just before the opening of the meeting on Monday, they expressed "some sort of optimism." However, the question of the participation of delegations to the "faction" leaders' conference, the holding of which depends on the outcome of the preparatory meeting, is still likely to delay the real talks.

GUNT Apologizes, Attends Session

AB221830 Paris AFP in French 1701 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 22 Oct (AFP) — The delegation of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] this morning apologized to the other Chadian delegations in Brazzaville for its refusal to attend the first working session of the preliminary meeting of the reconciliation conference on Chad yesterday. The GUNT apologized during a closed-door working session, which

was attended by all the delegates. It was learned from various sources that this meeting, which lasted more than 2 hours, took place in an atmosphere of great courtesy.

Several heads of delegations made speeches in which they reiterated their stands. Those of the GUNT and the Ndjamena government seemed "incompatible," various sources reported.

Mr Aktum Yacoub, secretary of state for foreign affairs, said that the GUNT represents "the revolutionary and democratic camp," while Hissein Habre's regime is "the antidemocratic camp linked to imperialism."

Yet Mr Yacoub and Gouara Lassou, Chadian minister of foreign affairs and head of the Ndjamena delegation, called for a "peaceful solution" to the conflict. The head of the Chadian diplomacy said that Ndjamena is willing to find a "political compromise with everyone."

Another meeting was to take place this afternoon, and then the delegates will be meeting every day at the Congress Palace — venue of the preparatory conference on Chad — from 0900 to 1200 and from 1500 to 1800, to try to tackle the "fundamental problems" dividing the Chadian nation for many years, it was learned from an authorized source.

GUNT Says Conditions Met

AB221900 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1230 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Passion gave way to appeasement at the preparatory meeting on Chadian national reconciliation in Brazzaville this morning when the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] returned to the negotiation table. Tripoli, in changing its tone, said it had no objection to any government that is acceptable to the Chadian people, according to Mr al-Turayki, the Libyan External Liaison Office secretary.

This kind of statement could facilitate dialogue between the fighting Chadian brothers. This is plausible because the GUNT depends on Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in all respects, both militarily and financially. It would be inappropriate at this time for Goukouni Oueddei to adopt any attitude contrary to that of Tripoli. Al-Turayki's statement gives a glimmer of hope for the success of this preliminary Brazzaville meeting. It is expected that Libya will support its words with actions.

This morning things seem to be set for the better in the Congolese capital. All the Chadian factions have come together to try to iron out their differences of opinion. Yesterday, the movement led by Goukouni Oueddei boycotted the first working session by demanding that the meeting be held under the auspices of the OAU and by saying that it would only negotiate with representatives of Hissein Habre. These two preconditions seem to have been met. We have Mr Issaka Ahmat, the GUNT representative in Brussels who is now participating in the Brazzaville deliberations, on the line:

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Issaka Ahmat, good morning, a first question: By laying down conditions, don't you think you are hindering the negotiations for reconciliation in Chad?

[Ahmat] We have no intention whatsoever of hindering the reconciliation. If that were the case, we would have stayed in Bardai. We came here to clarify the situation. We set two preconditions and the first one is that the meeting should be sponsored by the OAU and the second one is our request to Ndjamena to forsake its claim to legitimacy because the GUNT, in accordance with the Lagos accord, remains the legitimate government.

These two preconditions have been met by Ndjamena, which has agree on the OAU sponsoring the conference and dropped its claim to legitimacy. We, therefore, resumed our meeting this morning and it went well. Ndjamena agreed to give up the word "legitimacy" and approved of OAU sponsorship. As there was no more problem, we resumed our meeting. All the delegations spoke of the GUNT and Ndjamena.

[Reporter] So, you are proposing to eliminate all the other factions. Under such conditions, do you think you are contributing to reconciliation by only talking of the GUNT, which is representative of nothing, and Hissein Habre's party?

[Ahmat] We are here to implement the OAU resolutions and the July 1983 OAU ad hoc bureau on the Chadian conflict specified that the parties in conflict are the GUNT and Ndjamena. Like it or not, the various movements belong to one or the other of these two sides and, according to what was noticed this morning in the conference room, all the minor movements were with the GUNT, whether coming from Paris or elsewhere. In doing so, they showed that the GUNT was the legitimate Chadian government. Therefore, there is no need to multiply Chadian movements.

Sassou-Nguesso Meets Gabon, CAR, Cameroon Envoys

AB230857 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
0630 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso yesterday received envoys from Gabon, the CAR, and Cameroon. Delivering messasges from their respective heads of state were: Mr Jean Emile Mbot, the Gabonese minister of culture, arts, and popular education and current president of the National Center for Bantu Civilization; Edouard Frank Kolingba, special envoy of CAR President Andre Kolingba; and Ntonye Mbog, envoy of Cameroonian President Paul Biya.

Questioned on the preparatory meeting on Chad's reconciliation conference, currently being held in Brazzaville, the special envoy of the CAR president declared that his country wanted to make its contribution to the success of the initiative taken by the Congolese president in favor of Chad's reconstruction.

GABON

President Bongo Leaves For Visit to FRG

AB220754 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpt] President Omar Bongo left Libreville yesterday on a visit to the FRG at the invitation of the Federal Republic of Germany. The head of state is being accompanied by several government members.

ZAIRE

Ex-Prime Minister Discusses Foiled Coup

NC221320 Paris AFP in English 1311 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Brussels, Oct 22 (AFP) — An attempted coup against Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko was foiled at the beginning of this month with the aid of foreign intelligence, former Zairean Prime Minister Nguza Karl-i-Bond said here today. Mr. Nguza, one of the leaders of the exiled opposition to Marshal Mobutu, said the plot was uncovered by "the intelligence services of certain foreign countries active in the country." He did not say what foreign intelligence services had been involved.

His statement, issued through the BELGA NEWS AGENCY, alleged that several arrests had been made in the Armed Forces and security services, and a news blackout ordered. Mr. Nguza said the current economic situation in Zaire was "disastrous" and the atmosphere "tense" among the ruling classes.

Bank employees had been on strike for 10 days and civil servants were being dismissed en masse to comply with the requirements of the International Monetary Fund. A "civilian guard" of 20,000 men divided into two brigades had been recruited among the most loyal supporters of President Mobutu, and became "an army within the Army" with the task of ensuring the security of the regime, Mr. Nguza said.

Expanded Information Exchange Discussed With USSR

AB221600 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Sakombi Inongo, state commissioner for information, mobilization, propaganda, and political rallying, received in audience Mr Filatov, the USSR ambassador, who paid him a courtesy call and who also came to request media assistance in organizing a Soviet film week in the capital.

During the meeting, the two men discussed the issue of the exchange of information between USSR and Zaire. There is an existing agreement between AZAP and TASS on the exchange of general information on events in the two countries.

The two statesmen expressed special interest for cooperation in the field of scientific and sporting information as well as information on daily living — traditions, customs, and arts. The Soviet diplomat expressed satisfaction with the audience and promised to work toward the strengthening of cooperation between his country and Zaire in the information sector.

BURKINA

Government Seen Ignoring IMF Suggestions

AB221411 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT 22 Oct 84

[By Philippe Mudry]

[Text] Ouagadougou, Oct 22 (AFP) — The authorities of Burkina Faso appear determined to ignore International Monetary Fund suggestions of austerity measures in the face of mounting debts and go for an ambitious development programme.

That is the conclusion observers here are drawing from the launching earlier this month of the People's Programme for Development (PPD), which involves considerable investment of around 160 billion CFA francs (330 million dollars) between now and December next year, while the national debt has reached unprecedented heights.

An informed source here said that after a long period at reasonable levels, external debt servicing this year would reach 12 billion CFA francs (25 million dollars), plus another five billion (10.5 million) for public borrowing from banks and other enterprises within the country.

Burkina Faso, one of the poorest countries in the world, cannot bear such a burden in the opinion of economic observers, as the drought situation is worse than ever, economic conditions remain unfavourable, and business is still afraid of the revolutionary regime headed by Captain Thomas Sankara.

Confused by the government's economic measures and worried about its left-wing political stance, the business classes were further upset by the Cabinet reshuffle last August when the Ministry of Trade, Industrial Development and Mines became the Ministry of Trade and Supply, a title which to some heralded increasing state control of business. Traders have therefore reduced their purchases to a minimum and the resulting shortfall for the state in import tax revenue could exceed ten billion CFA francs (21 million dollars), around one-sixth of the total, a reliable source said. As a result, this year's budget deficit will fall somewhere between 10 billion and 15 billion CFA francs, the source predicted.

It is acknowledged here that while the government has taken measures to aid the masses, like ordering cuts in rents and school fees and ending a tax on agriculture which brought in 800 million CFA francs (1.7 million dollars), it has also frozen salaries, cut the pay of civil servants and ended recruitment by the state. It has also sacked or retired officials judged "corrupt" or "subversive," pruning the public sector work force by around ten per cent, or 23,000 people. The sacking of 1,460 schoolteachers last March for striking in protest at government moves against their union would have saved the treasury about one billion CFA francs (2.1 million dollars) annually, observers noted. At the end of July the state recovered 2.8 billion CFA francs (six million dollars) in fines and confiscation of assets from officials of former regimes found guilty of corruption by people's courts. Economic circles here also stress that the government has not shrunk from bringing some realism to prices, boosting for instance the amount it pays producers for cotton and cereals. In view of all these measures, one well-informed economic source said, the government was widely expected to reach agreement with the IMF for a stand-by loan of between 3.5 and four billion CFA francs (seven to eight million dollars), negotiate a rescheduling of its debts with creditor countries and obtain a French Government loan of five billion CFA francs (10.5 million dollars).

However, at its last visit in June an IMF mission made aid conditional on a development programme that was "coherent and compatible with the financial capacity of the country," the source said. But the PPD does not seem to fit into this category. Its cost is double Burkina's total income and economic circles are worried at its political aspect and the government's declared view of it as a way of breaking with the "bourgeois and neocolonial" economic ideas of previous regimes.

GHANA

Cape Coast University To Reopen 26 October

AB220810 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The University of Cape Coast is to reopen on Friday, the 26th of this month. According to a statement by university authorities, members of the Students' Representative Council and Junior Common Room freshmen are to report on the same day. Diplomats and others with an aggregate of 10 [as heard], except science students, should on their arrival at the university campus check on their chances of residence. The statement said an orientation course will begin on Monday, the 29th of this month. Short-listed candidates are also expected to check on their chances of admission on the same day.

Continuing students are to report for registration on the 1st of next month for classes to begin on the 5th. All students are to report with their own buckets and electric bulbs.

GUINEA

France's Nucci Ends Visit; Conte Comments

AB221815 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0645 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpts] The 2-day visit of Christian Nucci, French minister-delegate for cooperation and development, ended yesterday with a second audience granted him by the head of state, Colonel Lansana Conte. The audience enabled Mr Nucci to brief the head of state on the outcome of his contacts in Guinea. He stressed the frank atmosphere that characterized his meeting and said that this marks a new beginning for French-Guinean cooperation under the second Guinean republic.

In fact, during the press conference prior to his departure from Conakry, Mr Nucci noted that there is now a truly cordial relationship between his country and Guinea. He said the two countries agreed on the implementation of a number of priority projects in Guinea. The projects include in particular the agricultural, health, transport, education, and accelerated manpower

training sectors. He said he held two rounds of talks of 45 minutes and 3 hours respectively with the Guinean head of state. He also exchanged views with the ministers of cooperation, defense, and finance. He said during his talks with all these high-ranking officials, they discussed at length issues of foreign policy and, in particular, the situation in Chad, Western Sahara, Namibia, the forthcoming OAU summit, and the Bujumbura French-African summit.

Mr Nucci pointed out that apart from the loans granted to Guinea for 1984, additional aid will be made available to Guinea immediately for the implementation of three projects: the rehabilitation of the urban transport network in Conakry, the extension of Radio Conakry transmissions to cover the entire national territory, and the equipping of a laboratory at the Donka hospital. Finally, Christian Nucci said that France will be prepared to support the eventual admission of Guinea into the French zone as soon as the current monetary reforms being discussed with the IMF are concluded. This means that France is committed to giving a new impetus to French-Guinean cooperation.

Both sides have expressed satisfaction with this visit. Speaking to newsmen on the outcome of the visit by the French minister-delegate for cooperation and development to Guinea, the head of state, Col Lansana Conte, stressed that the visit was fruitful.

[Begin Conte recording] The outcome of the brief visit of the French minister for cooperation and development has been very positive. We expected this since we have always had the desire to cooperate with France. We are now trying to reestablish the links that once existed between the two countries, but which were interrupted for some time. We are resuming them on very solid bases and we are satisfied with this development. From what the cooperation minister has seen in Guinea, I believe he is also satisfied. [end recording]

Our French counterparts asked the head of state whether all was well between Guinea and the Soviet Union.

[Begin Conte recording] We have always cooperated closely with the Soviet Union and we will continue to do so. What we want is a frank and loyal cooperation with all countries without exception. We have resumed our cooperation with the Soviet Union. [end recording]

In response to a question on whether the former Guinean officials would be tried, Col Lansana Conte replied:

[Begin Conte recording] Of course they will be tried because it is unthinkable to hold someone in custody for some time without trying him. The trial will surely take place, but I cannot tell you when it will begin. It is difficult to know within a short time all the wrongdoings of a 26-year rule. We have to establish the charges of each of the detainees in order to avoid sentencing innocent people to jail for things they have not done. We know what happened in the past. But we want the international community to know what actually happened in Guinea. This is why we want to shed enough light on the issues of the former detainees, as well all those who died in jail. We would have tried them already but we wanted everyone to know the truth. We have a rough idea of the number of persons killed. I remind you that we have discovered many killings. We are convinced that they killed more people than necessary to ensure the survival of their regime. [end recording]

IVORY COAST

Military Operation With France Scheduled

AB221720 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] A joint French-Ivorian military operation codenamed "Comoe 84" will take place in the country from 25 to 30 November 1984. Details on the maneuvers were this morning presented to the minister of defense in the presence of the defense committee members and the French ambassador to Ivory Coast. The maneuvers are to enable our country to implement defense agreements that have existed between the two countries since Ivory Coast achieved its independence.

Loan Agreements Signed With CCCE, UK, ADB

AB221750 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Three agreements were signed this morning between Ivory Coast and the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation [CCCE], Great Britain, and the African Development Bank [ADB]. The total amount of the loans is about 22 billion CFA francs. For more details, our reporter Augustin Kouassi talked with the minister of finance, Abdoulaye Kone:

[Begin Kone recording] For some years now, the CCCE has been assisting us in a field that is very vital to the Ivorian Government — agriculture and rural development. The amount of the loan is 18.5 billion CFA francs. The second loan agreement signed this morning was with Great Britain. We signed the loan with Great Britain's ambassador to Ivory Coast and it involves 3.5 million pounds sterling, that is about 2 billion CFA francs.

You know that this loan was granted by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to President Houphout-Boigny during his visit to Great Britain. The president did not request this loan. It was granted simply to demonstrate to President Houphouet-Boigny the British Government's interest in strengthening the exemplary cooperation that exists between Ivory Coast and Great Britain. As for the third loan, it was signed with the ADB. It is for 6 million units of account. The money will be used to finance a small-scale industrial program in the animal breeding sector. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Doe Lays Rural Communications Network Cornerstone

AB191232 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The head of state, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, this morning laid the cornerstone of the Liberia

Rural Communications Network's central programmimg unit in Paynesville. The network is a joint venture with the U.S. Government and will be built within the Liberia Broadcasting System's complex.

When completed, the facility will serve as a center for the production and distribution of educational broadcasts to all parts of the country. The idea of the Rural Communications Network was conceived in 1977 in an effort to decentralize the Liberia Broadcasting System.

NIGERIA

FMG To Create Border Outposts for Security

AB222055 Lagos NAN in English 1730 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Ibadan, Oct 22 (NAN) — The Federal Military Government is to create border outposts to provide adequate security all over the country, the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, announced in Ibadan today.

Addressing the opening session of the 2 Mechanised Division Training Week at the start of a three-day visit to Oyo State, Maj Gen Buhari said that the border outposts would provide timely information, assess intelligence reports and maintain constant surveillance. He said that Army units located near the borders had been upgraded as priority units in terms of facilities required to perform their roles. The head of state said that the use of force to resolve issues all around the world had made it necessary for the country to seek a new status of national power to influence, deter, or contain all forms of threat. Consequently, Maj Gen Buhari said, the Federal Military Government was determined to ensure that its decisions on national security were consistent with the national interest.

He also said that the government was determined to pursue vigorously the accelerated modernisation of the Army, which he described as a costly but inevitable process in view of recent events around the world. Maj Gen Buhari told the officers participating in the training that the future would demand their dedication, sense of commitment and self-motivation. He said that the nation had never looked up to the military for leadership, like in the present day, and emphasised that need for them to live up to expectations.

The head of state said that the military should justify their position through good examples and precepts as well as obeying the laws of the land. He stressed the need for the officers to continue to improve their knowledge of geo-political issues, in addition to military subjects, so that they could contribute meaningfully to the overall effort of the Federal Military Government.

Earlier in an address of welcome, the general officer commanding the division, Brigadier Sanni Abacha, pledged the unflinching loyalty of the officers and men of the division to the Federal Military Government.

Among the places the head of state has visited are the university teaching hospital and multi-million naira shopping centre built by the state government. Earlier on arrival at the Ibadan airport, the head of state was received by the state governor, Lieutenant Colonel Aladayo Popoola, state commissioners and traditional rulers. Others at the airport were representatives of the market women, cultural troupes, voluntary organisations and religious leaders.

Maj Gen Buhari inspected a guard of honour mounted by a detachment of the 2 Mechanised Division. Those accompanying the head of state on the visit are the Director of State Administration Supreme Headquaters Rear Admiral Victor Oduwaiye, the minister of internal affairs, Magoro, and the minister of finance, Dr Onaolapo Soleye.

The head of state will later today be a guest at a civic reception at the Liberty Stadium, Ibadan.

Idiagbon, World Bank Official on Country's Economy

AB200937 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] The Federal Government is to continue with its stringent economic measures until the nation regains its bouyancy. This was stated yesterday at Dodan Barracks by the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, while exchanging views with the vice president of the World Bank, Mr Wilfred Thalwitz.

Brig Idiagbon said that the Federal Government was working hard to resuscitate the economy and get the nation's industries back into operation. The chief of staff stated that the government would continue to cooperate with the World Bank and take decisions based on the interest of the nation.

In his remarks, the World Bank executive, Mr Thalwitz, commended the efforts of the military government to revamp the economy. He said during his 5-day stay in the country, he had observed (?keen) determination by Nigerians to ensure that government efforts to revive the economy were successful. The World Bank executive said he was in the country to offer policy options toward revamping the economy.

FMG To Sign Trade Accords With 4 Countries

AB191520 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The Federal Government will today in Lagos sign commercial agreements with some foreign company representatives. Representatives of the companies are from Britain, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. In a statement the Federal Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology said the companies will supply workshop equipment to 6,699 junior secondary schools throughout the country.

It disclosed that Britain will supply equipment worth about 45 million naira while Czechoslovakia will supply about 22 million naira worth of equipment. Hungary is to supply equipment worth over 17 million naira. A similar agreement will be signed with Bulgarian representatives later this month.

FMG Plans To 'Resuscitate' LNG Project
AB221351 Lagos NAN in English 1114 GMT 22 Oct 84

[By Franklin Adesegha]

[Text] London, Oct 22 (NAN) — The Federal Military Government plans to resuscitate the liquefied natural gas project (LNG) by arranging to secure finance and market for the project, according to the minister of petroleum and energy, Prof Tam David-West.

In a paper presented on his behalf by Nigeria's acting high commissioner in London, Ambassador Ibrahim Karfi, at the end of a two-day international oil conference in London, Prof David-West said that important decisions on the project had been delayed in the past while the market was under close study. In the process, world LNG markets were showing signs of weakness caused by supply commitments and declining consumption needs, the Western Europe correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) quotes the minister as saying. The minister, however, said that recent studies indicated that some residue or window market exists for our LNG export in the 90's if supply arrangements can be made expeditiously. He said that Nigeria's determination to establish the LNG project was to maximize crude oil values and find alternatives for crude oil exports.

Prof David-West said that although the size of the project had been reduced, it is an additional source of foreign exchange earning which could provide a revenue cushion when the crude oil market is depressed or boost our foreign exchange earnings in a favourable external market environment for crude oil.

Saudi Envoy Expresses Satisfaction With Relations
AB222135 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Saudi Arabia has expressed satisfaction with her relations with Nigeria. The Saudi ambassador to Nigeria, Mr al-Sa'ud Mufti, made the remark in Lagos today while speaking to Dodan Barracks' correspondent after a meeting with the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon.

He said that the talks centered on bilateral issues. Mr Mufti expressed the hope that relations between the two countries would continue to grow for the benefit of the people. Commenting on the recent oil cuts by the Federal Government, he said the issue would be discussed at the meeting of the oil ministers of OPEC.

Envoys From Liberia, Tanzania, Botswana Received
AB200930 Lagos NAN in English 0856 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Lagos, Oct 19 (NAN) — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, today in Lagos received letters of credence from three newly accredited envoys to Nigeria. The envoys are the ambassadors of Liberia, Mr Dueh Chieh and the high commissioners of Botswana and Tanzania, Mr E.K. Rasebetsa and Mr E.W.N. Nwasakafyuka respectively.

Receiving the envoys at Dodan Barracks, the head of state urged them to travel extensively in the country to appreciate the various aspects of life in Nigeria. Maj Gen Buhari said that despite the scarcity of resources, Nigeria would continue to give moral and material support to the liberation movements in southern Africa. He urged the new ambassadors to improve on the performances of their predecessors in consolidating the relations between Nigeria and their respective countries. The envoys expressed the desire of their respective countries to maintain and improve the links with Nigeria.

Former NYSC Director Given 22-Year Jail Term
AB192025 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The former director of the National Youth Service Corps [NYSC], Colonel Peter Tonlewole Obasa, has been sentenced to 22 calender years' imprisonment by the Lagos Zone of the Special Military Tribunal. He was found guilty on four of the six-count charges of corruptly enriching himself.

Delivering judgment today, the chairman of the tribunal, Brigadier Paul Omo, said the prosecution had evidence to show that Colonel Obasa received kickbacks from various transactions when he was the NYSC director.

He said although some of the witnesses might be regarded as accomplices to the case, there was sufficient proof from the evidence, including the confessional statements of the convict.

The tribunal dismissed pleas that the whole business was conducted in the name of NYSC and [words indistinct] the action of a breach of financial obligations.

It concluded that Colonel Obasa had, by his irresponsible and shameless acts, contributed to the economic (?perversity) of the country. The tribunal, however, discharged and acquitted the convict of a count of false declaration of assets because of the [word indistinct] he made before the expiration of the notice of declaration.

HERALD Commends Decision To Cut Oil Price
AB200953 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *NIGERIAN HERALD* in its editorial commends the Federal Government for reacting promptly to the British Government's cut in the price of the North Sea oil.

The paper is of the opinion that the Federal Government has no other option under the prevailing circumstances than to reduce the price of Nigeria's oil.

The *HERALD*, however, hopes that members of OPEC will understand Nigeria's predicament and continue to give their support to the Federal Government.

Further Comment on Reduction

AB221010 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Two papers, the *DAILY TIMES* and the *NIGERIAN TIDE* comment on the recent reduction of the price of Nigeria's crude oil. The papers fully support the action. The *TIMES* expresses the opinion that members of OPEC will continue to cooperate with Nigeria in her efforts to revamp her economy. It, however, urges the government to speed up the diversification of the economy. The *TIMES* believes that Britain's reduction of her oil price is meant to thwart Nigeria's efforts to revamp the economy. The paper advises Nigeria to review her relationship with those countries that have negative views on Nigeria.

In the same vein, *THE VANGUARD* says the price reduction will compel the government to reactivate the sale of other revenue-earning products. In the final analysis, the paper expressed the view that with adequate planning and studying industrial growth, such adjustments will not disrupt the country's economic programs.

Oil Seen as Way To Achieve Self-Sufficiency

AB200925 Lagos NAN in English 0802 GMT 20 Oct 84

[By Franklin Adesegha]

[Text] London, Oct 19 (NAN) — Nigeria's oil policy is to boost her productive capacity and use the resources to achieve self-sufficiency not only in petroleum products but also in agricultural, industrial and technological development, the minister of petroleum and energy, Prof Tam David-West has said.

The Western Europe correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reports that in a paper presented on his behalf at a two-day international oil conference in London, Prof David-West said that oil shall remain the pillar of the Nigerian economy for some time to come. He also said that the country's ability to settle her short-term debts and put the economy on a sustainable development path depended on the resilience of the oil sector and the ability of the government to judiciously manage it. He, however, said that Nigeria's degree of leverage in the execution of her oil policy would have to be viewed within the institutional framework of her membership of OPEC. Prof David-West said that Nigeria had reiterated her strong commitment to the organization, adding that the recent quota increase granted her had reinforced the country's faith and confidence in the organization.

In the paper, read on his behalf by Ambassador Ibrahim Karfi, Nigeria's acting high commissioner in the UK, the minister said that consideration was now being given to the expansion of domestic refineries to meet domestic needs and provide export opportunities for petroleum products, particularly in West Africa. On government subsidy of domestically consumed petroleum products, the minister said that a removal of subsidy would raise petroleum prices by about 50 to 200 percent. He said that although the government might accept in principle the idea of removing subsidy as a means of effecting some conservation policies and generating additional foreign exchange, it did not intend to carry this out at the moment for reasons which, he said, should be obvious to friends of our country.

Sponsored by the *INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE* and the *OIL DAILY*, the conference, whose theme was Oil and Money: Strategies for the Eighties, featured participants from the U.S., Saudi Arabia, France, Belgium, the Middle East, and the UK.

IMF Attitude Toward Third World Criticized

AB181131 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Ishola Dada Commentary]

[Text] Several complaints have been made of recent against the International Monetary Fund, IMF, as regards its attitude toward nations of the Third World, otherwise known as developing countries, in the granting of loans. Because these complaints often emanate from politicians, particularly those whose countries are, at the material time, seeking financial aid from the fund, (?people) tend to view such complaints as cynicism. Now, however, objection to IMF modus operandum is coming from other directions. Fortunately, this time, such objecting voices are coming from nonpartisan organizations.

For example, OXFAM, a British charity organization is one of such non-profitmaking, but philanthropic, bodies to voice its disapproval of IMF policies toward developing countries. Accusing the Fund of intensifying mass hunger at the launching of a campaign in London to highlight the causes of poverty, OXFAM said austerity measures prescribed by IMF force indebted nations to focus attention on producing cash crops for export, leading to a great reduction in food crops for local consumption. According to OXFAM's estimates, 15 million people, most of them children, die of hunger and half a million suffer from malnutrition around the world every year.

Coincidentially, OXFAM's admonition of the IMF came only 1 day after Nigeria's External Affairs Minister Dr Ibrahim Gambari at the UN General Assembly accused the Fund of insensitivity to Africa's economic problems. Like OXFAM, Dr Gambari believes that the IMF is a bad doctor who prescribes the same medicine to all patients irrespective of their ailments. Basically, conditions normally imposed for loans to developing countries by the IMF are always too stringent and tend to add more economic woes to the problems of these impoverished countries than they actually seek to annihilate. They range from devaluation of the national currencies to bilateralization of foreign trade, as well as removal of subsidies on certain essential products; in the case of Nigeria, petroleum products.

In economic and social terms, acceding to any of these conditions means more advantages to foreign investors, manufacturers, and importers, and increased disadvantages to the country seeking or receiving the conditional loans. Brazil and Argentina are two good examples of victims of IMF conditional loans. And coming back home to Nigeria, the IMF has invoked these same con-

ditions to restore negotiations between it and Nigeria for a loan of over 1 billion naira to tidy up some of the country's economic commitments. For instance, the IMF is not just demanding the devaluation of the naira, but insisting on an outright 50-percent devaluation.

One does not need an economist to tell him that Nigeria's economy, though in a bad shape, is not so hopeless as to warrant such a dose of medicine. This condition, when seen together with the second one which calls for trade liberalization, can only be seen as a design to cause social upheaval in the country. For a cheap and weak naira will mean higher costs for imported goods, while trade liberalization means freedom to dump all sorts of imported items in Nigeria, irrespective of whether they are essential or not. On the other hand, the removal of government subsidies on petroleum products means more hardships for Nigerian communities, and this certainly will not be in the best interest of either the government or the governed, particularly at a time like this when everybody is feeling the pinch of the economic crunch.

As our leaders rightly said, to accept the IMF present conditions will amount to economic suicide. For Nigeria and other developing countries, there is an alternative, and that is sacrifice and more sacrifices. But the question is: Are we prepared to make that necessary sacrifice?

Briefs

Envoy Presents Credentials— Nigeria's new high commissioner to Zimbabwe, Colonel Tony Bello, yesterday in Harare presented his credentials to President Canaan Banana. Reports say several senior officials of the Nigeria mission in the Zimbabwean capital and some officials of the Zimbabwean Government, led by the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Maurice Nyagumbo, witnessed the occasion. Col Bello, who arrived in Harare last month to assume duty, is the second Nigerian high commissioner to Zimbabwe since her independence 4 years ago. [Text][*Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 20 Oct 84 AB*]

ANGOLA

Jorge Dismissal Viewed as Gesture on Namibia Issue

PA221410 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1143 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Lisbon, 22 Oct (DPA) — Angolan External Affairs Minister Paulo Jorge, who is definitely pro-Soviet, has been dismissed. Observers believe that he was dismissed to facilitate the negotiations with the United States and South Africa on Namibia. According to a Luanda radio report it was learned today in Lisbon that the foreign minister was dismissed last night "for reasons of service" [as received].

Paulo Jorge also lost the seat he held on the party Central Committee of the sole party, the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola). According to political observers in Lisbon this morning, the outgoing minister was viewed as a dogmatic defender of "scientific socialism." According to observers in Lisbon, Paulo Jorge's dismissal might be associated with the recent visit by Frank Wisner, U.S. deputy assistant secretary for African affairs to Angola, South Africa, and Portugal, the former colonial metropolis.

FAPLA Forces Kill 106 UNITA 'Bandits'

MB190631 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Some 106 UNITA bandits were annihilated by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] soldiers in offensive operations launched between 25 September and 1 October in several regions of the country. According to military sources cited by ANGOP, in that period the FAPLA soldiers launched operations in the Moxico Province, which resulted in the annihilation of 88 UNITA criminals and the capture of large quantities of war materiel.

In the Benguela, Huila, and Cuanza Norte provinces, defensive operations were also launched by the Angolan combatants, which led to the killing of 18 armed bandits and to the capture of several weapons and other military equipment. Still in this period, the FAPLA soldiers, in an operation launched in Malanje Province, captured two UNITA criminals, and two others surrendered themselves to the Angolan authorities in the region of Saurimo, Lunda Sul Province.

BOTSWANA

High Court Nullifies Gaborone South Election

MB221352 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The High Court in Lobatse has declared the 8 September parliamentary election in the Gaborone South constituency null and void and the constituency's parliamentary seat vacant. The chief justice, Mr O'Brien Quinn, has consequently referred the verdict to the president on the decision on the date for a by-election in the constituency.

The High Court reached its verdict after a petition by the Botswana National Front for the election results in the Gaborone South constituency to be declared void due to election irregularities. Both counsels for the petitioner and respondent agreed that evidence provided by the finding of an unopened ballot box containing sealed ballot envelopes constituted sufficient evidence to support the petition.

The attorney for the applicant said he would not persist on the original grounds set forth in the petition, but would rely on the fact that the discovery of the box was an irregularity in that not all the votes would have been counted. The respondent would not [words indistinct] because of the ballot box evidence.

LESOTHO

Government Sends Congratulations to Bishop Tutu

MB191433 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The Government of Lesotho today sent a letter of congratulations to Bishop Desmond Tutu, the secretary general of the South African Council of Churches, for having been awarded the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize. In a dispatch today, the Lesotho Government noted that this award is not only speaking to Bishop Tutu, but is a clear endorsement of a campaign he has championed in search of peace, human dignity, and freedom for all peoples in southern Africa.

The message said that the Basotho rejoice with Bishop Tutu and all the people who recognize no frontiers in pursuit of basic human rights, liberty, and peace in southern Africa. The announcement that Bishop Tutu was awarded the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize was made in Norway this week while he was attending a church seminar in New York. Bishop Tutu has been congratulated by several churches and political organizations around the world. He served as the bishop of Lesotho in 1976, and before that he had been the lecturer of theology at the National University of Lesotho.

MALAWI

Further Reportage on Visit by Mozambique's Machel

Machel Speaks at Banquet

MB200842 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] President Samora Machel said in Blantyre yesterday that his visit to Malawi is aimed at strengthening the existing links of cooperation between the two countries in order to eliminate underdevelopment. The Mozambican head of state said, however, that cooperation between the two countries could only be successful with the elimination of armed bandits who sabotage railroads and other economic infrastructure. President Samora Machel was speaking at a state banquet given in his honor by President Kamuzu Banda.

Talks between delegations of Mozambique and Malawi begin this morning as part of the visit by President Samora Machel. According to the *NOTICIAS* correspondent, the talks will discuss the Mozambique and Malawi security question.

Presidents Begin Talks

MB201243 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Excerpts] President Samora Machel said in Blantyre yesterday the cooperation with Malawi could only be successful with the elimination of armed bandits who sabotage railroads and other economic infrastructure. High-level talks between delegations of Mozambique and Malawi began this morning. (Sulemane Khadir), our correspondent in Blantyre, gives more details:

[(Khadir)] Official talks between high-level delegations of the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of Malawi began early this morning in Blantyre, economic capital of Malawi. The delegations were led by the two heads of state, respectively, President Samora Machel and President Hastings Kamuzu Banda.

In his opening address, President Kamuzu Banda once again welcomed President Samora Machel and through him conveyed a message of greetings to the Mozambican people. Kamuzu Banda said that as head of state he would not discuss any issue because that was the task of his ministers and officials. His role was only to decide upon the recommendations from his high-ranking officials.

In reply, President Samora Machel clarified once again, and in a more decisive manner, the objective of the present visit to the Republic of Malawi. President Samora Machel noted that there were various possibilities of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of transportation, energy, industry, and other sectors. However, President Samora Machel stressed that the whole concept of cooperation depends on jointly cooperating to attain stability and security on the common border.

President Samora Machel said that all members of the Mozambican delegation were political elements. He said that security on the border of the two countries, particularly between Malawi and the Niassa, Zambezia, and Tete provinces, must be permanent.

The prominent aspect of President Samora Machel's speech at the official opening of the talks in Blantyre this morning was therefore the question of security on the common border between Malawi and the People's Republic of Mozambique. President Samora Machel also noted that the activities of armed gangs have been endangering and harming the bilateral relations, namely economic, commercial, and technical cooperation between the two countries.

President Samora Machel is presently touring a tourist resort known as Monkey Bay on the Malawian side of Lake Niassa.

Meanwhile, Mozambican and Malawian officials are busy holding discussions related to cooperation between the two countries in the fields of foreign trade, transportation, and security. The Mozambican delegation includes Colonel General Sebastiao Marcos Mabote, deputy minister of defense and chief of General Staff of the Mozambique Armed Forces. The Malawi delegation includes several ministers and high-ranking Army and police officials.

Machel on 'Armed Bandits'

MB211203 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] President Samora Machel has said cooperation between Mozambique and Malawi will only be possible if the two countries work side by side to guarantee peace and stability along their border. President Samora Machel was speaking in Blantyre yesterday before the opening of high-level talks between the two countries as he continued his 5-day official visit to Malawi.

The Mozambican leader said it was the task of the two delegations to set up political machanisms as a base for economic cooperation. The problem of border security was of fundamental importance, he said.

The Mozambican National Resistance [Renamo] armed bandits have used bases in Malawi to attack targets in Mozambique, including the rail links to the ports of Beira and Nacala, which are of vital importance for Malawi's foreign trade. The Mozambican Government has always made it clear that it does not suspect the Malawian authorities of any kind of involvement in this, but wants to discuss the matter.

President Samora Machel said yesterday that Malawi has an important role to play in guaranteeing peace and stability in Mozambique and in southern Africa in general. Both countries, he said, accepted the charters of the OAU and the Nonaligned Movement, and shared the ideals of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference economic alliance.

President Samora Machel compared the armed bandits to the tsetse fly: Mozambique could not successfully combat the problem if Malawi did not participate. He said there should be a constant exchange of information between Malawi and the three Mozambican provinces that border on it — Niassa, Zambezia, and Tete. The political leaders of all three provinces are in Malawi with the president.

While government ministers from both countries continued talks in Blantyre yesterday, President Samora Machel visited Monkey Bay on the southern shore of Lake Niassa, and he is due to visit the Malawian capital Lilongwe, today.

Machel Visits Kasungu Academy

MB220740 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] President Samora Machel this morning toured the Kamuzu Academy in Kasungu, continuing his state visit to Malawi. In Kasungu, the Mozambican head of state was received by the minister of local government, who is also the Malawi Congress Party [MCP] chairman for the country's central region.

Late this morning President Samora Machel traveled to Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, where he signed the book of honor at the city hall. This afternoon the Mozambican head of state will tour the MCP national headquarters in Lilongwe, and the natural resources institute. Our correspondent has reported that President Samora Machel will return to Blantyre today.

Meanwhile, talks between Mozambique and Malawi delegations continued this morning to finalize details for bilateral economic cooperation, which will be part of the general accord of cooperation expected to be signed within the next few days by presidents Samora Machel and Kamuzu Banda. It is expected that security on the border between the two countries will be mentioned as the main factor in realizing the projected programs.

Cross-Border Agreement Reached
MB231008 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] At a meeting held in Blantyre the day before yesterday, President Samora Machel of Mozambique and Kamuzu Banda of Malawi agreed that, effective now, citizens from both countries would be free to invest in one or the other country. The two presidents also agreed that a road would be built from Quelimane to Milanje to serve Malawi and thus enable it to have three outlets to the sea — namely Nacala, Beira, and Quelimane.

MAURITIUS

Jugnauth Accepts American Assurances on Diego Garcia
AB221545 Paris AFP in French 1213 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Port-Louis, 22 Oct (AFP) — Americans are telling the truth when they say that there are no nuclear missiles on Diego Garcia island, Aneerood Jugnauth, prime minister of Mauritius stated on his return to Port-Louis on Saturday after attending the UN General Assembly in New York.

Mr Jugnauth stated that he had "no reason not to believe in their good faith" concerning the American assurance that the agreement signed with Britain, the main clause of which is to make Diego Garcia a communication base and a supply point for American warships, has not been violated. The Americans have also given him the guarantee that no nuclear missiles have been stationed on the island.

Asked about the PRC's protests over the installation of a trade mission by Taiwan in Mauritius, Mr Jugnauth stated that these protests were "baseless" for he does not see how a Taiwanese commercial mission could disturb the PRC.

India's Zail Singh Begins Visit, Holds Talks
BK221639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Excerpt] India and Mauritius today expressed concern over stockpiling of nuclear arms by the superpowers and their increased military presence in the Indian Ocean. The concern emerged at the informal talks between the president, Giani Zail Singh, and the governor general of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, in Port Louis. The talks were held immediately after Giani Zail Singh's arrival.

The two leaders also called for urgent steps to save mankind from a nuclear holocaust. They reaffirmed their commitment to the policy of nonalignment and peaceful coexistence. They said India and Mauritius have complete identity of views on most of the world issues and there are no problems between them.

Earlier, the president was given a warm welcome when he arrived in Port Louis to begin a 5-day state visit. He was received at the airport by Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth, other ministers and top officials.

MOZAMBIQUE

Chissano Meets Portugal's Gama; Applauds Tutu Award
MB220758 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] Mozambique's foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano, has said the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to South African Bishop Desmond Tutu was a correct decision. Speaking on his return to Maputo from a visit to the United Nations in New York, Mr Chissano said the award of the prize to a leading figure in the nonviolent struggle against apartheid should not be seen as a discouragement to other forms of struggle. On the contrary, he said, the prize should serve as an encouragement to all forces fighting against apartheid and for peace in southern Africa.

Mr Chissano said his visit to the United Nations had allowed him to explain to many other diplomats the current situation in southern Africa, especially the talks between Mozambique and South Africa. He said many of the speeches in the UN General Assembly had confirmed the need to ensure rapid independence for Namibia and to wipe out apartheid in South Africa.

On his way back from New York, Mr Chissano stopped over in Lisbon for talks with Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama. Mr Chissano told reporters that Mr Gama had reiterated his government's position that it had nothing to to with the actions of Portuguese citizens who were conspiring against the Mozambican Government. The Mozambican National Resistance armed bandits normally issue their statements in Lisbon, even those which acknowledged responsibility for the kidnapping and murder of Portuguese citizens working in Mozambique.

Radio Commentary Discusses Tutu Nobel Prize
MB181648 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] This years's Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to Bishop Desmond Tutu, the secretary general of the South African Council of Churches [SACC]. Nobel prizes are controversial and it has often been said that the Nobel committee has political bias.

The frequent selection of anticommunists for prizes is seen by many people as a deliberate strategy, rather than an accident.

Bishop Tutu himself is a fervent anticommunist, as he himself has often made clear. There can therefore be no suggestion that some left-wing force is behind the award to the bishop and the bishop's anticommunist views may indeed have been a factor in his selection. On the other hand, these anticommunist views were not the main factor. Bishop Tutu's role as an opponent of the apartheid system is what makes him a public figure and what made him a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Nobel committee has given its highest honor to a fighter, albeit a peaceful one, against the system of government in South Africa, and in doing so the Nobel committee has frontally opposed the South African Government's doctrine that all activities against it are a communist orchestrated plot. The award is one more international recognition that the struggle against apartheid is waged by South Africans of many shades of political opinion.

This struggle is not part of the cold war. If there was no Soviet Union and no United States there would too be a struggle against apartheid in South Africa. It is, and always has been, up to people of South Africa to decide how they conduct their struggle for the basic rights that the people of other countries enjoy. Some, like Bishop Tutu, will choose the peaceful road, while others, seeing this as fruitless, will use or support violent methods. There can be no doubt where the feelings of the majority lie.

Bishop Tutu is a popular figure among South Africa's masses, not because he is a pacifist or an anticommunist, but because he attacks apartheid and does not attack the ANC. It is not by chance that when the SACC workers received the news of Bishop Tutu's prize, they celebrated by singing "Nkosi Sikelela 'i Africa," the anthem of the ANC.

Soviet Delegation Tours Zambezia Province

MB210531 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The Soviet delegation that has been in Quelimane since yesterday will today hold a solidarity meeting with the residents of one of the suburbs of that city. The schedule of the Soviet delegation for Zambezia Province includes touring a number of production units and other sectors of economic interest. The tour of Zambezia Province by the Soviet delegation is in the framework of the solidarity week between the Mozambican and Soviet peoples.

GDR, USSR Consuls Meet Official in Sofala

MB221340 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Major General Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and leader of Sofala Province, received the consul general of the GDR in Beira yesterday. On the occasion, the GDR diplomat presented his credentials to the provincial leader, which allowing him to perform his duties in the country's central and northern regions. During the meeting the leader of Sofala Province and the consul general of the GDR assessed various aspects of common interest. Marcelino dos Santos also received the USSR consul general yesterday, with whom he exchanged views about various aspects of the lives of the Mozambican and Soviet peoples.

GDR Delegation Arrives for Fisheries Meeting

MB230947 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] A delegation from the GDR arrived in Maputo yesterday to take part in a meeting of the fisheries subcommission of the Mozambique-GDR joint commission. The delegation is led by Klaus Borkmann, the deputy minister for district managed industry and foodstuffs industry, and the chairman of the subcommission on the GDR side. The GDR delegation was received at Maputo International Airport by Tenreiro de Almeida, the secretary of state for fisheries. Besides discussing cooperation between Mozambique and the GDR in fisheries, the two sides will also assess problems of professional training for Mozambicans in the GDR beginning in September 1985.

Armed Forces Kill 16 'Bandits' in Operations

MB191148 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Five armed bandits captured in different areas of the provinces of Gaza and Maputo were presented in Maputo yesterday to national and foreign journalists at a meeting organized by the FPLM General Staff. On the occasion, the armed bandits related their activities. Meanwhile, last Tuesday, the Mozambican Armed Forces in Niassa killed four armed bandits and captured another four when they tried to attack the Matama state enterprise. On the same occasion, our forces captured four automatic weapons and a considerable quantity of ammunition.

On the same day in Sofala Province, a group of soldiers escorting the Beira-Moatize train killed seven armed bandits 10 km from Nhandima in Chiringoma District. In Inhambane Province on Tuesday, the FPLM killed five bandits in Nhachingue, 55 km north of Massinga. In this action, our forces captured 1,400 rounds of ammunition and 16 cartridges and recovered four bicycles stolen from the people by the armed bandits.

Renamo Reports 515 Killed in October

PA230435 Paris AFP in Spanish 0307 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Lisbon, 22 Oct (AFP) — In a communique published in Lisbon today, the Mozambique National Resistance movement, [Remamo]armed opposition against the Maputo regime, asserted that they killed 496 Mozambican, four Cuban, and 15 Zimbabwean soldiers during operations carried out in nine of the 10 Mozambique provinces during the first half of October.

In the communique — the first that Renamo has released since a cease-fire was signed with President Samora Machel's government — Renamo has admitted it sustained 27 casualties, while

69 have been reported missing during this same period. According to the same source, three Cuban soldiers were killed near Moamba, in the Maputo Province in southern Mozambique, while the fourth man was killed in the Manica Province in the country's central area. The 15 Zimbabweans were killed during an attack on the oil pipeline joining the port of Beira in Mozambique's central eastern region and Zimbabwe.

In addition, the communique said that Renamo will carry out "an important national offensive" during November's rainy season. The document later added: "Until a true, fair ceasefire is established, the armed struggle will be the decisive factor that will force the enemy to accept the people's will."

Renamo has determined that it will not again participate in the tripartite meetings being held in Pretoria (Mozambican Government, rebels, and South Africa) until Maputo "clearly" states whether it has plans to negotiate peace in Mozambique.

Railroad Agreement Signed With Malawi

MB222030 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] Last night the first train from Beira port arrived in Malawi after almost 2 years of disruption by armed bandits of the railroad linking the two countries. According to AIM, this was disclosed in Blantyre this afternoon by the Malawi railways director general while signing the first railroad agreement between Malawi and Mozambique since our independence.

Engineer Ferreira Mendes, national director of ports and railroads, signed the agreement for Mozambique, while the Malawi railways general director signed for his country. The agreement provides for full use of the potential in both countries for handling Malawi's goods. Malawi had been forced to use the South African port of Durban only because of the actions of the armed bandits.

The agreement is part of the development of cooperation in the railroad sector between the two countries, which are members of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. It is also a result of efforts by Mozambican authorities to handle Malawian goods at the Mozambique ports of Nacala and Beira.

SOUTH AFRICA

Police, Army Launch Operation in Vaal Triangle

Police, Army Enter Sebokeng

MB230553 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Units of the South African Police and Defense Force have launched a large-scale operation in the black township of Sebokeng in the Vaal Triangle to restore law and order. A statement issued by the minister of law and order, Mr le Grange, says revolutionary forces in South Africa have caused unrest in some black townships. The statement says that this unrest is not only being fanned by revolutionary elements, but is being exploited by criminal groups and intimidators. As a result, people have lost their lives, community services have been disrupted, thousands of black school children have been intimidated into boycotting classes, and enormous damage has been caused.

Mr le Grange said the government had decided that this lawlessness must be curbed with all available means and that law and order must be effectively restored. He said it was essential that the lives of township residents should return to normal and that thousands of children should return to school. It was especially important that children who are being prevented from continuing their schooling because of intimidation should be granted the opportunity to further their education.

The operation, known as Operation Palmiet, began shortly after 0200 hours this morning. Seven thousand police and troops surrounded Sebokeng and began searching houses. The people whose houses were searched were informed by the police of the nature and purpose of this operation. The community was asked to support the operation so that revolutionary and criminal elements could be neutralized. The police distributed pamphlets explaining the operation, and residents were asked to dissociate themselves from the unrest.

The minister said the operation has been carefully planned, and the residents of Sebokeng could be certain that they would be inconvenienced as little as possible. But Mr le Grange said that security forces would remain in the areas as long as was necessary to effectively combat and restrain criminal and revolutionary elements. Mr le Grange asked all employers in the Vereeniging-Vanderbijl Park area to show understanding if some of their employees were late for work. Everything possible would be done to enable law abiding workers to get to work on time.

More than 250 people have been arrested in the operation so far on charges ranging from possession of dagga [marijuana] to illegal possession of arms. Those arrested may appear in special courts today. A police spokesman said the operation was proceeding according to plan, and no incidents of violence have been reported.

A working press base has been set up at the Vereeniging Police Station and is being used by local and overseas media people since early this morning. A police spokesman, Colonel Leon Mellett, said the operation had been planned with care and a number of government departments were involved. The main role of the Defense Force had been to form a cordon around Sebokeng to enable the police to conduct a house-to-house search for criminal elements, instigators, and concealed weapons. He said the minister held revolutionary forces responsible for the unrest in many black townships, especially on the East and West Rand, and in the Eastern Cape. Apart from the loss of life and disruption of essential services, damage caused in the unrest amounted to millions of rands. Colonel Mellett said the operation was being headed by the officer commanding the Police Counterinsurgency Unit, Brigaider Bert Wandrag. He said the operation would not be extended to other townships in the area today. Sebokeng has been chosen for joint action because it was the most sensitive area of unrest.

7,000 Converge on Township

MB230645 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Excerpts] The police and Defense Force have launched a major military operation in the Vaal Triangle. A combined force of 7,000 police and Defense Force troops converged on the unrest-hit township of Sebokeng at 0300 hours to curb what Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange describes as revolutionary elements. Mr le Grange's secretary, Colonel Leon Mellett, says the operation, code named Operation Palmiet, had been carefully planned in the utmost secrecy and involved several government departments. Mellett says Sebokeng has been chosen because it is what he calls the most sensitive area of the unrest, which has left more than 80 people dead since August.

The 7,000 police and troops are covering an area of 3,500 hectares, in which 120,000 people live in 19,500 houses. Police and Defense Force public relations have set up a media base at the Vereeniging Police Station. A short while after the operation got under way, the base was teeming with local and foreign journalists. Troops in full combat gear have lined the main street of Sebokeng, armed with assault rifles. Soldiers have been stationed every 20 meters, and dozens of military vehicles are patrolling the area. Law and Order Ministry Official Leon Mellett says units of the South African Police will remain in the area for as long as necessary. He says Defense Force units will probably remain in the township for part of the day once the operation is completed.

Sebokeng residents are not the only ones affected by the operation. A section of neighboring Evaton is also falling in the security dragnet. We have just heard that the number of people arrested in Sebokeng has climbed to more than 300.

Operation Prompts Strong Reactions

MB230744 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0736 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Vereeniging, Oct 23, SAPA — Black political organizations have slated the huge deployment of troops in Sebokeng, describing it as an act of aggression equivalent to civil war. Their angry criticism has been echoed by the South African Council of Churches, while opposition white parties have differed on the issue — with the Progressive Federal Party repeating its opposition to troops in the township and New Republic Party leader, Mr Vause Raw, regards the action as "acceptable in principle but inopportune" in view of the United Nations focus on South Africa. [Sentence as received]

The United Democratic Front spokesman, Mr Trevor Manuel, said its warnings weeks ago that South Africa was entering a state of civil war with the threatened use of troops had proved real. He predicted: "It is unlikely the people of Sebokeng will be beaten into submission. On the contrary, their anger will make way for bitterness and black/white polarisation."

The UDF has appealed for people to "rally in defence of the people of Sebokeng" to "show contempt for these actions." He added that the kinds of offences on which people had been arrested showed "the authorities were looking for something they could not find under beds or in wardrobes. The anger of the people over rentals and lack of participation in government doesn't hide in those places."

Mr Ishmael Mkhabela of the Azanian People's Organisation also said the move was a declaration of war. "The occupation of the Vaal shows that the South African Government has completely failed in its policies of apartheid. We warn those behind the aggression against the people that legitimacy cannot be won by naked forces of violence. The revolutionary threat of which the government talks has its roots in unrepresentative minority rule."

The president of the South African Council of Churches, Bishop Manas Buthelezi, expressed shock at "what amounts to the siege of Sebokeng." He added: "The flexing of military muscle on the part of the government only serves to delay a real solution. We all know that what the people of Sebokeng and other areas want are basic human rights, including the right to elect and participate in a government of their choice."

Progressive Federal Party Transvaal spokesman on black affairs, Mr Peter Soal, has reiterated his party's opposition to the use of troops in the townships and demanded that "root causes of the unrest — the genuine grievances of people — must be addressed."

Scores of of white residents reacted with shock and surprise after learning that 7,000 troops and police had cordoned off the Sebokeng township at about 3 am this morning in a bid to rid the area of dissidents.

Vereeniging's major, Mr Mauritz Meyer, said he learned of the invasion early this morning. Mr Meyer came out in support of the operation and stated that it was really necessary. "The current lack of law and order is disrupting law-abiding citizens in the township and should be curbed as soon as possible," he said.

Another spokesman for the Vereeniging Town Council, the town secretary, Mr J. Coetzee, commented that it was in the interest of the black people themselves that law and order should be restored to the areas to allow the smooth administration of the township. A police spokesman confirmed that about 354 people had been arrested during the operation by 8:30 am this morning.

Security Operation Winds Down

MB231026 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1019 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 23, SAPA — The massive 7,000-man security force clampdown on Sebokeng, where soldiers cordoned off the black township near Vereeniging while police conducted a house-to-house search from 2:30 am, today appeared to be drawing to an end by midday. "The operation is tailing off now," said Colonel Leon Mellet from a communications center near the area. Colonel Mellet is press officer to the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, who authorized Operation Palmiet.

The total number of arrests for a variety of offences, including influx control contraventions but excluding any under the Inter-

nal Security Act, stands at 354, or almost one a minute, and is understood to be the final tally. "No decision has, however, been taken yet as to exactly when troops will be withdrawn from the area, and police units will remain for as long as is necessary," Colonel Mellet said.

It is likely, however, that the soldiers, who were involved in the oeration in a supportive role and under the supervision of police, will leave later today.

UDF Blamed for Violence

MB230804 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] The government has blamed the United Democratic Front of formenting unrest during its campaign for a boycott of the Indian and Colored elections for the new tricameral parliament. Local politicians became the targets of violence in the black townships following highly unpopular rent increases imposed by the recently elected black town councils. The unrest started at Sebokeng and then spread to the whole of the Witwatersrand, Pretoria, Welkom, and the Orange Free State province, and some townships in the Eastern Cape Province.

Further Reportage on Durban Fugitives Issue

Wives Appeal to Thatcher

MB221935 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The wives of the three activists in the British Consulate in Durban have asked the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, to reverse her government's decision to stop visits by the families of the men. The wives of Mr Archie Gumede, Mr Billy Nair, and Mr Paul David said the British Government's decision to stop the visits was intended to create as many hardships as possible for their husbands. They said the effect of what the British Government had done would probably lead to their arrest.

UK Consulate Slows Work

MB230811 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0758 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Durban, October 23, SAPA — The British Consulate in Durban virtually ground to a halt yesterday amid renewed speculation that a shut-down could give police a chance to move in and arrest the three fugitives. Meanwhile, the fugitives' wives began a 48-hour fast yesterday in protest against the British Government's refusal to allow them to visit their husbands.

Mr John Hedley, a British Diplomat in Pretoria, confirmed yesterday that more of the Consulate's public services had been transferred to Johannesburg. He said no visitors were being allowed into the Durban Consulate, but declined to comment on speculation of a total shut-down.

Dr Farouk Meer, a spokesman for the Natal Indian Congress and United Democratic Front, said last night that all action by the British Government so far pointed to a closure of the consulate. A notice on the door outside the Consulate on the seventh floor of a Field Street building said all consular matters had been transferred and it directed inquiries to the British Consulate in Johannesburg.

Mr Hedley said the work of the Consulate had to be reduced considerably because of difficulties caused by the sit-in. "Correspondence, telephone, and telex inquiries will continue to be dealt with, but no visitors will be received and many functions have been transferred to Johannesburg for the time being," he said.

The number of uniformed policemen and security policemen stationed outside the building increased yesterday.

UDF Reacts to Le Grange Decision

MB221500 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1400 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The United Democratic Front [UDF] has reacted to the decision by Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange not to comply with any of the three conditions set out by them for the three leaders in the consulate to leave the building. Carmel Rickard reports:

[Rickard] The UDF has criticized Le Grange, but much of their anger also falls on the two newest Cabinet ministers, Allan Hendrickse and Amichand Rajbansi. They point out that if the South African Government considered the issue over the weekend, as Le Grange states, this means that Hendrickse and Rajbansi must have been part of that decision. The UDF adds: The two must therefore bear full responsibility for the actions of the South African police, and the detentions of our leaders. This is their first step to full participation in the implementation of apartheid and detention without trial. According to the UDF, Le Grange's refusal yet again to provide reasons for the detentions makes a mockery of the provision in the law allowing for a detainee to make representation against his or her detention orders.

Opposition Leader Questions Botha Competence

MB190855 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0828 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] Durban, Oct 19, SAPA — The leader of the Progressive Federal Party, Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, today virtually demanded the removal of Mr Pik Botha as minister of foreign affairs at the end of a week of public rows involving the minister. In an interview today Dr Slabbert said: "I am really, for the first time, seriously beginning to doubt whether Minister Pik Botha is any longer competent to deal with South Africa's foreign affairs and the state president should consider asking for his resignation."

The latest statement from Dr Slabbert follows a challenge from Mr Botha to Dr Slabbert to look the families of the four men who are supposed to stand trial on Monday in Britain "in the eye and

to tell them that their husbands and fathers will be sent to prison for years in Britain in that miserable climate."

The week has seen Mr Botha locked in verbal battles with Dr Slabbert, visiting British Labor Party MP Mr Donald Anderson, and the British Government over his allegations that South Africa's system of detentions was no worse than those applied in Britain. Dr Slabbert said he doubted Mr Botha's competence "when he is prepared to descend to this level. I have no wish to condemn the men to years in prison or their families to any hardship."

This had nothing to do with the "fact that the government itself was prepared to accept and solemnly give its word that it let these men stand trial. Either Mr Botha knew at the time that they would serve years of misery in British jails and was prepared to accept it or he and his government were simply lying. He is now using sentimental and emotive cheap political tricks to disguise the fact that in his capacity as foreign minister he has brought dishonor on our country," Dr Slabbert said.

"In the past, I have been able to defend the government on two points. One, that it keeps its word and, the other, that it pays its debts. No longer will I be able to say it keeps its word." Dr Slabbert rejected Mr Botha's claim that he was a "friend" of Mr Anderson. "I have never met him, spoken to him, and I certainly hold no brief for him, but one thing is clear, Mr Anderson sees Mr Botha as his unpaid publicity agent."

Botha Responds to Slabbert

MB191442 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says that, although it was painful, South Africa had intended returning the four men to stand trial in Coventry on charges of illegal arms trading until the British Government frustrated the course of justice in South Africa. Mr Botha was reacting in Pretoria to doubts cast by the leader of the Progressive Federal Party, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, on his handling of the consulate issue and the public debate that followed.

Dr Slabbert said in an interview that he was for the first time seriously beginning to doubt whether Mr Botha was still competent enough to deal with South Africa's foreign affairs. He suggested that the state president should consider asking for his resignation. The statement was made after Mr Botha had challenged Dr Slabbert to look in the eye the families of the four men who were to stand trial in Britain on Monday and tell them that their husbands and fathers would be sent to prison for years in Britain.

Mr Botha said today that Dr Slabbert had forced himself into a corner, and wanted to hide his embarrassment by emotional statements. Mr Botha said Dr Slabbert was not reacting to what he had said, but to what he would have liked Mr Botha to have said. Mr Botha reiterated that the South African government had been determined to keep to its undertaking to return the four men, no matter how painful this might have been. He wanted to know from Dr Slabbert whether he would have derived pleasure from such a decision.

Foreign Minister Reacts To Coventry Judgment

MB221926 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says the judgment of the Coventry Magistrate's Court in Britain on the arms case shows beyond doubt that the South African Government was correct in its decision not to send back to Britain the four South Africans involved.

Speaking at a news conference in Pretoria, Mr Botha said the findings of the court showed among other things that South Africa had had definite political reasons which justified breaking its pledge to the British court. The magistrate, Mrs Helen Freeman, said the court was not qualified to make a ruling on the reasons concerned.

Mr Botha said the judgment was a victory for the South African viewpoint that it was a matter relating to international law, and not a case for a domestic court. Mr Botha added that South Africa maintained the view that it was justified in refusing to return the four South Africans, in retaliation for the presence of the activicts in the British Consulate in Durban. The court had, therefore, borne out South Africa's view. Mr Botha also said South Africa would not appeal against the court's findings, because the case had been drawn out long enough. He said the step of issuing arrest warrants for the four South Africans was merely an automatic action, in the light of the fact that they were not present in court.

Earlier, the Coventry court issued arrest warrants against the men — Messrs Stephanus de Jager, Hendrick Botha, Willem Buitenkamp, and Jacobus le Gange. The court also ruled that South Africa should forfeit the bail of more than 800,00 rand because of its refusal to send back the men to stand trial on charges of arms smuggling. The magistrate, Mrs Freeman, said the four men could not be punished personally.

Softening of Renamo Stance on Talks Reported

MB230753 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Text] It is reported from Pretoria that the Mozambican peace talks are expected to resume in the city this week with Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] back at the negotiating table. The secretary general of the movement, Mr Evo Fernandes, who stayed away from the talks last week, is expected back in South Africa this week. Reports say that he has softened his line that Renamo will not take part in the peace negotiations until it is recognized by the Frelimo government.

Mr Fernandes said in Lisbon, Portugal, at the weekend that he was not promising to return to the talks but he was returning to

South Africa to study the situation in loco. The sources close to the ceasefire commission are confident that Mr Fernandes will be at the next meeting.

No Comment on Possible Pik Botha Visit to Israel

MB221812 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria did not want to comment this afternoon on reports that the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, was to visit Israel and West Germany early next month. Earlier it was reported that an official of the Israeli Foreign Ministry in Tel Aviv had said that Mr Botha would interrupt a visit to West Germany on 4 November to make a private visit to Israel. The official said no schedule had been drawn up for Mr Botha's visit, but that he would probably meet Israeli foreign minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir. In Pretoria, the Foreign Affairs Department spokesman pointed out that travel plans for the minister of foreign affairs, in general, were not made public.

Court Sets Aside Suspension of Ruiterwag Leader

MB221808 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The suspension of Mr Chris Fismer as president of Die Ruiterwag, a secret organization for young Afrikaans men, was set aside in the Rand Supreme Court today. Judgement was passed by Mr Justice (C.S. Mago), after an urgent application was brought by Mr Jan Dawid le Roux on 26 September to prevent Mr Fismer from interfering in the affairs of Die Ruiterwag.

This application was rejected, and a counterclaim by Mr Fismer that the suspension and termination of his membership of the organization be declared invalid and set aside was upheld. The judge also set aside the appointment to the executive of Die Ruiterwag, Die Ruiterraad, of three members: Mr Francois le Roux, Mr (H.A.A. Lamprecht), and Mr (D.P. Uys). Mr Justice (Mago) also declared valid a meeting of the general Wagraad, which was called by Mr Fismer for 24 November. The court ordered Mr J.D. le Roux to pay most of the costs of his application, and the counterapplication brought by Mr Fismer.

Church Leader Asks Talks With Liberation Groups

MB201159 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] The president of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, the Reverend (Peter Storay), has called on so-called liberation movements in the subcontinent to lay down their arms. In his opening address to the church's annual conference in Pretoria, the Reverend Mr (Storay) also called on the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, to lift the ban on these movements and to invite them for talks. He said that such a step would require great statemenship, but it could help to eliminate the present deadlock, as he put it.

He said Mr Botha should give an undertaking that soldiers would not be used to quell unrest in black areas. He described the present unrest as twice as bad as in the past because there were no leaders. Referring to the armed struggle against South Africa, he said the ANC and the PAC [Pan-African Congress] were turning more and more to terrorism because they were forced to step up their struggle for the sake of their credibility.

Buthelezi Says Blacks Must Choose Own Leaders

MB210527 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] The chief minister of KwaZulu and leader of Inkatha Movement, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, says if South Africa is ever to have genuine politics of negotiation, the whites will have to leave it to the blacks to choose their own leaders. They will then have to have the courage to negotiate with these leaders.

Speaking at the annual conference of the Inkatha Women's Brigade at Ulundi, Chief Buthelezi urged delgates to put the tactics and strategies of the United Democratic Front [UDF] under close scrutiny. He said that the fact that some of the leaders of the UDF were hiding out in the British Consulate in Durban was indicative of the fact that they were concerned more with publicity than with mobilizing the blacks. He further accused the UDF of having been behind the recent unrest at the University of Zululand.

SWAZILAND

University Closed Due to Boycott of Lectures

MB200722 Mbabane Television Service in English 1830 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The University of Swaziland was closed today until the end of October due to a boycott of lectures by students at KwaLuseni. Professor Sam Guma said that the student boycott of lectures was contrary to established procedures within the university. He said that the university senate held an emergency meeting this morning and called in the Students Representative Council [SRC] in an attempt to establish the reasons behind the boycott of the lectures.

He said the SRC did not come to the Senate meeting. The senate, he said, then wrote a letter to the SRC in which it demanded that they appear before it before 1200 noon today. Again the SRC did not turn up, he said, despite a warning that if they did not turn up to attend the senate meeting, the senate would make a recommendation to the University Council for the closure of the university. The university council, which he said includes the principal secretary in the Ministry of Education, met this afternoon and accepted the senate recommendations for a shutdown.

Defense Minister Leaves for Zambia Celebrations
MB221800 Mbabane Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 22 Oct 84

[Text] The minister for defense and youth, Brigadier Fonono Dube, left the country today for Lusaka, Zambia, to represent her majesty the queen regent, Ntombi, at celebrations marking President Kenneth Kaunda's 60th birthday. Dr Kaunda's birthday coincides with celebrations marking Zambia's 20th independence anniversary.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Recalls 'Tribal Divisions' in 1968
MB220630 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 21 Oct 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, has said the Armed Forces could have taken over the government had he not rescinded his decision to resign in January 1968 following the discovery of what he called deep tribal divisions in the party.

Speaking on Television Zambia as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the president said he had no doubt in his mind that the vacuum left by his resignation could only have been filled by the Armed Forces. Dr Kaunda said [words indistinct] of the 1967 general party conference at Mulungushi local authority, higher tribal community elections were held and the result reflected regional rivalries for the first time in the history of the party. He said the nation was a divided one by the time the delegates reached Mulungushi as the prevailing situation then was one province lining up against the other.

Briefs

PRC Railroad Team — A visiting Chinese railways delegation has called for improvement in operational management on the Zambia-Tanzania Railways Authority. The delegation is led by PRC deputy minister for railways, Mr (Ba Kit), who said while it was true that operational management of the railways had improved steadily over the last 8 years, there remained much more room for improvement. Mr (Ba Kit) was speaking in Lusaka when he met Power, Transport, and Communications Minister Fitzpatrick Chuula today. He noted that some equipment lacked maintenance. Mr (Ba Kit) also noted that although the capacity of the railway was 2 million tons a year, this capacity was presently not being met, adding that with improved operational management he was confident things would improve. The Chinese minister wished President Kaunda continued personal health, and Zambia continued prosperity as she holds her tripartite independence celebrations next week. Mr Chuula told his guest the amount of cargo going through the railway had been increased following improved performance, but Zambia would continue to increase her cargo on the railway as the situation improves. He said Zambia had recently discovered that the Tanzania-Zambia Railway was among its best outlets to the sea. [Text] [*Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Oct 84 MB*]

ZIMBABWE

Top Officials Investigated for Drug Smuggling
MB191204 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 19 Oct 84

[Text] The minister for home affairs, Comrade Simbi Mubako, today disclosed that police are investigating a number of top government officials for allegedly being involved in the smuggling of mandrax drugs from Zambia to Zimbabwe. Comrade Mubako told the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation that as soon as investigations are complete, the officials will appear in court. The minister warned that his ministry will leave no stone unturned in exposing the drug smugglers.

Comrade Mubako said he was aware that several businessmen were being used as fronts by some government officials to smuggle the drugs into the country. He said more people would appear in court soon in connection with the offense.